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Commission on the Status of Women

Report on the forty-sixth session (4-15 and 25 March 2002)

Economic and Social Council

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Note

Symbols of United Nations documents are composed of capital letters combined with figures.

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Chapter I
Matters calling for action by the Economic and Social Council or brought to its attention

A. Draft resolutions for adoption by the Council

1. The Commission on the Status of Women recommends to the Economic and Social Council the adoption of the following draft resolutions:

Draft resolution I
The situation of and assistance to Palestinian women*

The Economic and Social Council,

Having considered with appreciation the report of the Secretary-General on the situation of and assistance to Palestinian women,[1]

Recalling the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women,[2] in particular paragraph 260 concerning Palestinian women and children, the Beijing Platform for Action[3] adopted at the Fourth World Conference on Women, and the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly entitled "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century",[4]

Recalling also its resolution 2001/2 of 24 July 2001 and other relevant United Nations resolutions,

Recalling further the Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women[5] as it concerns the protection of civilian populations,

Stressing the need for compliance with the existing Israeli-Palestinian agreements concluded within the context of the Middle East peace process and the need to resume peace negotiations, as soon as possible, in order to reach a final settlement,

Concerned about the continuing dangerous deterioration of the situation of Palestinian women in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including Jerusalem, and about the severe consequences of continuous illegal Israeli settlements activities as well as the harsh economic conditions and other consequences for the situation of Palestinian women and their families, resulting from the frequent closures and isolation of the occupied territory,

Expressing its condemnation of acts of violence, especially the excessive use of force against Palestinians, many of them women and children, resulting in injury and loss of human life,

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* For the discussion, see chap. III.

1 E/CN.6/2002/3.

2 *Report of the World Conference to Review and Appraise the Achievements of the United Nations Decade for Women: Equality, Development and Peace, Nairobi, 15-26 July 1985* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.85.IV.10), chap. I, sect. A.

3 *Report of the Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing, 4-15 September 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.13), chap. I, resolution 1, annex I.

4 See General Assembly resolution S-23/3, annex.

5 See General Assembly resolution 48/104.

1. *Calls upon* the concerned parties, as well as the international community, to exert all the necessary efforts towards ensuring the immediate resumption of the peace process on its agreed basis, taking into account the common ground already gained, and calls for measures for tangible improvements in the difficult situation on the ground and living conditions faced by Palestinian women and their families;

2. *Reaffirms* that the Israeli occupation remains a major obstacle for Palestinian women with regard to their advancement, self-reliance and integration in the development planning of their society;

3. *Demands* that Israel, the occupying Power, comply fully with the provisions and principles of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,[6] the Regulations annexed to the Hague Convention of 1907[7] and the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War, of 12 August 1949,[8] in order to protect the rights of Palestinian women and their families;

4. *Calls upon* Israel to facilitate the return of all refugees and displaced Palestinian women and children to their homes and properties, in compliance with the relevant United Nations resolutions;

5. *Urges* Member States, financial organization of the United Nations system, non-governmental organizations and other relevant institutions to intensify their efforts to provide financial and technical assistance to Palestinian women, especially during the transitional period;

6. *Requests* the Commission on the Status of Women to continue to monitor and take action with regard to the implementation of the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women, in particular paragraph 260 concerning Palestinian women and children, the Beijing Platform for Action, and the special session of the General Assembly entitled "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century";

7. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue to review the situation and to assist Palestinian women by all available means, and to submit to the Commission on the Status of Women at its forty-seventh session a report on the progress made in the implementation of the present resolution.

Draft resolution II
Situation of women and girls in Afghanistan*

The Economic and Social Council,

Guided by the Charter of the United Nations, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,[9] the International Covenants on Human Rights,[10] the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment,[11] the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against

* For the discussion, see chap. III.

[6] General Assembly resolution 217 A (III).

[7] See Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, *The Hague Conventions and Declarations of 1899 and 1907* (New York, Oxford University Press, 1915).

[8] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 75, No. 973.

[9] General Assembly resolution 217 A (III).

[10] General Assembly resolution 2200 A (XXI), annex.

[11] General Assembly resolution 39/46, annex.

Women,[12] the Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women,[13] the Convention on the Rights of the Child[14] and the optional protocols thereto on the involvement of children in armed conflict[15] and on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography,[16] the Beijing Declaration[17] and Platform for Action,[18] the further actions and initiatives to implement the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, adopted by the General Assembly at its twenty-third special session,[19] accepted humanitarian rules as set out in the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949,[20] and other instruments of human rights and international law,

Recalling that Afghanistan is a party to the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide,[21] the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights,[10] the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights,[10] the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment,[11] the Convention on the Rights of the Child,[14] and the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949[20] and that it has signed the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women,[12]

Reaffirming that all States have an obligation to promote and protect human rights and fundamental freedoms and must fulfil the international legal obligations they have undertaken,

Recalling the importance of the implementation of Security Council resolution 1325 (2000), on women, peace and security, as well as the statement made by the President of the Council on 31 October 2001, on women, peace and security,[22]

Welcoming the Agreement on provisional arrangements in Afghanistan pending the re-establishment of permanent government institutions, signed in Bonn on 5 December 2001,[23]

Welcoming also the efforts of Afghan women to participate actively in civil society, as evidenced by the Afghan Women's Summit for Democracy, held in Brussels on 4 and 5 December 2001, the round table on building women's leadership in Afghanistan convened by the United Nations Development Fund for Women and the Government of Belgium, held in Brussels on 10 and 11 December 2001, and the Brussels Action Plan on Afghan women's participation in the reconstruction of Afghanistan, adopted at the round table,

Welcoming further the international commitments expressed at the International Conference on Reconstruction Assistance to Afghanistan, co-chaired by the Government of Japan, the Government of the United States of America, the

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[12] General Assembly resolution 34/180, annex.
[13] General Assembly resolution 48/104.
[14] General Assembly resolution 44/25, annex.
[15] General Assembly resolution 54/263, annex I.
[16] Ibid., annex II.
[17] *Report of the Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing, 4-15 September 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.13), chap. I, resolution 1, annex I.
[18] Ibid., annex II.
[19] General Assembly resolution S-23/3, annex.
[20] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 75, Nos. 970-973.
[21] General Assembly resolution 260 A (III), annex.
[22] S/PRST/2001/31.
[23] See S/2001/1154.

European Union and the Government of Saudi Arabia, held in Tokyo on 21 and 22 January 2002,[24]

Welcoming the Afghan women's consultation held in Kabul on 7 March 2002 under the auspices of the Ministry of Women's Affairs and the United Nations Development Fund for Women and the celebration of International Women's Day in Afghanistan on 8 March 2002, as well as the holding of the workshop on human rights under the auspices of the Afghan Interim Authority and the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights in Kabul on 9 March 2002,

Welcoming also the efforts of Afghanistan's neighbouring countries, which have hosted millions of Afghan refugees, especially women and children, and have provided humanitarian assistance in many areas such as education, health and other basic services,

Welcoming further the role of the international humanitarian organizations in providing humanitarian assistance to Afghan refugees,

Encouraging the international community to continue providing refugee-hosting countries with various forms of assistance and cooperation so that they can further assist Afghan refugees,

Bearing in mind the desirability of a voluntary return of Afghan refugees to their country in safety and dignity,

Welcoming developments in Afghanistan that will contribute to the creation of conditions that will allow all Afghans, especially women and girls, to enjoy their inalienable human rights and fundamental freedoms and fully participate in the reconstruction and development of their country,

Welcoming also the commitment of the Afghan Interim Administration to the active participation of Afghan women in political, economic and social life, to the education of girls as well as boys and to the right of women to work outside the home,

Welcoming further the inclusion of women in the Afghan Interim Administration and in the twenty one member Special Independent Commission for the Convening of the Emergency Loya Jirga, and stressing the importance of the full and effective participation of women in all decision-making processes regarding the future of Afghanistan,

Welcoming the signing of the Declaration of the Essential Rights of Afghan Women, by the Chairman of the Afghan Interim Administration,

Welcoming also the fact that the United Nations Immediate and Transitional Assistance Programme for the Afghan People 2002 reflects the needs of, and the importance of the role to be taken by, women and girls in the process of peace-building, reconstruction and development,

Encouraging the members of the international community, including non-governmental organizations, to continue efforts to draw attention to the situation of Afghan women and girls,

Recognizing the importance of the human rights and fundamental freedoms of women and girls in Afghanistan,

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[24] See A/56/801-S/2002/134, annex.

Recognizing also that women's effective participation in civil, cultural, economic, political and social life should be promoted and protected throughout Afghanistan,

Recognizing further that Afghan women are primary stakeholders and agents of change, who must have the opportunity to identify their own needs and priorities in all sectors of society as full partners in the rebuilding of their society,

Recognizing the need for the international community to ensure that a gender mainstreaming approach is adopted in all its activities and that it proceed in a gender-sensitive way that gives Afghan women a key role in the process,

Recognizing also that non-governmental organizations are playing a valuable role both inside and outside Afghanistan in the provision of basic services and in the delivery of humanitarian assistance to the Afghan people and that they continue to be important partners in the recovery and reconstruction process,

Mindful of the continued fragile humanitarian situation in Afghanistan and the importance of ensuring continued humanitarian assistance and protection for Afghan civilians,

Emphasizing that a safe environment, free from violence, discrimination and abuse for all Afghans, is essential for a viable and sustainable recovery and reconstruction process,

1. *Welcomes* the commitments made by the Afghan Interim Authority to recognize, protect, promote and act in accordance with all human rights and fundamental freedoms, in accordance with international human rights instruments, and to respect and ensure respect for international humanitarian law;

2. *Welcomes with appreciation* the report of the Secretary-General to the Commission on the Status of Women on discrimination against women and girls in Afghanistan, including the conclusions and recommendations of the report;[25]

3. *Welcomes* the establishment of the Ministry of Women's Affairs as an integral part of the Afghan Interim Administration, and urges the Interim Authority to provide the necessary assistance to enable the Ministry to function effectively, and encourages the international community to provide funding and technical assistance so that the Ministry can fulfil its task in promoting gender equality and develop the capacity to act as a catalyst for gender mainstreaming throughout the Government;

4. *Urges* the Afghan Interim Authority and the future Afghan Transitional Authority to:

(a) Respect fully the equal human rights and fundamental freedoms of women and girls in accordance with international human rights law;

(b) Give high priority to the issue of ratification of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women,[12] and consider signing and ratifying the Optional Protocol to the Convention;[26]

[25] E/CN.6/2002/5.

[26] General Assembly resolution 54/4, annex.

(c) Repeal all legislative and other measures that discriminate against women and girls, as well as those that impede the realization of their human rights and fundamental freedoms;

(d) Enable the full, equal, and effective participation of women and girls in civil, cultural, economic, political and social life throughout the country at all levels;

(e) Ensure the equal right of women and girls to education without discrimination, the reopening of schools and the admission of women and girls to all levels of education;

(f) Respect the equal right of women to work and promote their reintegration in employment in all sectors and at all levels of the Afghan society;

(g) Protect the right of women and girls to security of person, and bring to justice those responsible for violence against women and girls;

(h) Protect the right to freedom of movement for women and girls;

(i) Respect the effective and equal access of women and girls to the facilities necessary to protect their right to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health in accordance with Afghanistan's obligations under the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights;[10]

(j) Reaffirm full support for the participation of women in the Special Independent Commission for the Convening of the Emergency Loya Jirga and in the Loya Jirga itself;

(k) Reaffirm the equal rights of women to own land and other property, inter alia, through the right to inheritance, and undertake administrative reforms and other necessary measures to give women the same right as men to credit, capital, appropriate technologies and access to markets and information;

(l) Provide women with an equal opportunity for employment in all ministries and commissions, including the Judicial Commission, the Civil Service Commission and the Human Rights Commission, and take steps so that the work of the Afghanistan Human Rights Commission is underpinned by international human rights standards and integrates women's rights in its mandate;

(m) Provide a safe environment free from violence to facilitate the voluntary return of refugees and displaced persons;

(n) Conduct a review of the impact on women and girls of the existing legal system in order to facilitate appropriate remedial measures with regard to family law, property and inheritance rights;

5. *Encourages* the continuing efforts of the United Nations and its agencies, guided by Security Council resolution 1325 (2000) on women, peace and security, to:

(a) Fully support the Afghan Interim Authority and the future Afghan Transitional Authority regarding the participation of women;

(b) Provide support to ministries to help develop their capacity to mainstream a gender perspective into their programmes;

(c) Support capacity-building for Afghan women to enable them to participate fully in all sectors;

(d) Provide technical and other relevant assistance so that the judicial system has the capacity to adhere to international standards of human rights;

(e) Develop and implement a programme of human rights education to promote respect for and understanding of human rights, including the human rights of women;

(f) Support measures to hold accountable those who are responsible for gross violations of women's human rights in the past and to ensure that full investigations are conducted and perpetrators are brought to justice;

6. *Invites* the United Nations system, international and non-governmental organizations, and multilateral and bilateral donors, to:

(a) Ensure a human rights-based approach and gender-mainstreaming in all programmes and operations, based on the principles of non-discrimination and equality between women and men, and ensure that women benefit equally with men from such programmes in all sectors;

(b) Develop comprehensive and coherent gender policy and programmes in Afghanistan, apply good practices of gender budgeting and strengthen inter-agency mechanisms for coordination and cooperation;

(c) Ensure the full and effective participation of Afghan women in all stages of humanitarian assistance, recovery, reconstruction and development, including planning, programme development, implementation, monitoring and evaluation;

(d) Employ Afghan women, inter alia, in management positions, promote security in their employment with the assistance community and respect the right to women's freedom of movement;

(e) Support the elements of civil society active in the field of human rights, in particular women's rights;

(f) Ensure that all United Nations international and national personnel, prior to beginning their service, receive appropriate training on the history, culture and traditions of Afghanistan and are fully familiar with and guided by international standards of the human rights of women and girls;

7. *Encourages* the continuing efforts of the United Nations, international and non-governmental organizations and donors to ensure that all United Nations-assisted programmes in Afghanistan are formulated and coordinated in such a way as to promote and ensure the participation of women in those programmes and that women benefit equally with men from such programmes;

8. *Welcomes* the continuing efforts of United Nations organizations to mainstream a gender perspective and their efforts to reappoint a senior gender adviser in the Office of the Resident/Humanitarian Coordinator or the Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General;

9. *Calls upon* the international community to continue to provide financial and technical assistance, including human rights education, to protect the human rights of women and girls and to support initiatives to end violence against them and to increase their economic security, as well as to strengthen the capacity of Afghan women to fully and effectively participate in conflict resolution and peace-building efforts and in civil, political, economic, cultural and social life;

10. *Invites* the Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights on the situation of human rights in Afghanistan to continue to give special attention to the human rights of women and girls, to incorporate a gender perspective in his work and to cooperate with other Special Rapporteurs of the Commission on Human Rights;

11. *Calls upon* the Afghan Interim Administration and the future Afghan Transitional Authority to take all necessary measures to ensure the safety and security of all humanitarian workers in Afghanistan, whether employed by Governments, international organizations, non-governmental organizations or the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, so that they can, regardless of gender, carry out their work unhindered;

12. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue to review the situation of women and girls in Afghanistan and to submit to the Commission on the Status of Women at its forty-seventh session a report of progress made in the implementation of the present resolution.

Draft resolution III
Agreed conclusions of the Commission on the Status of Women on thematic issues*

The Economic and Social Council

Endorses the following agreed conclusions adopted by the Commission on the Status of Women with respect to the thematic issues addressed by the Commission at its forty-sixth session:

A
Agreed conclusions on eradicating poverty, including through the empowerment of women throughout their life cycle, in a globalizing world

1. The Commission on the Status of Women recalls and reiterates the strategic objectives and actions of the Beijing Platform for Action and the outcome document adopted at the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly entitled "Gender equality, development and peace in the twenty-first century",[27] which emphasized the multidimensional nature of poverty and identified gender equality and the empowerment of women as critical factors in the eradication of poverty. It also recalls the United Nations Millennium Declaration[28] and the development goals contained therein, as well as the resolve to promote gender equality and the empowerment of women as effective ways to combat poverty, hunger and disease and to stimulate development that is truly sustainable.

2. The Commission on the Status of Women recognizes that, while it is the primary responsibility of States to attain economic and social development and to achieve the development and poverty eradication goals as set out in the Millennium Declaration, the international community should support the efforts of the developing countries to eradicate poverty and ensure basic social protection and to promote an enabling international environment.

* For the discussion, see chap. III.

[27] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Twenty-third Special Session, Supplement No. 1* (A/S-23/13), resolution S-23/3, annex.

[28] General Assembly resolution 55/2.

3. While globalization has brought greater economic opportunities and autonomy to some women, many others, owing to the deepening inequalities among and within countries, have been marginalized and deprived of the benefits of this process. Globalization should be fully inclusive and equitable. To that end, there is a strong need for policies and measures at the national and international levels, formulated and implemented with the full and effective participation of developing countries and countries with economies in transition to help them respond effectively to those challenges and opportunities. Further efforts at the national and international levels should be made to eliminate the obstacles facing the integration of developing countries in the global economy.

4. The empowerment of women is the process by which women take control over their lives, acquiring the ability to make strategic choices. Empowerment is an important strategy to eradicate poverty. Special attention must be given to the situation of women and children, who often bear the greatest burden of extreme poverty.

5. The Commission urges Governments and, as appropriate, the relevant funds and programmes, organizations and the specialized agencies of the United Nations system, the international financial institutions, civil society, including the private sector and non-governmental organizations (NGOs), and other stakeholders, to take the following actions to accelerate implementation of these strategic objectives to address the needs of all women:

(a) Ensure that all actions to achieve the poverty eradication goals established in the Millennium Declaration include the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of women throughout their life cycle;

(b) Ensure that, in order to eradicate poverty and promote gender equality and democracy and strengthen the rule of law, both women and men are involved in decision-making, political agenda-setting and allocation of resources;

(c) Ensure that women and men have equal access to full and effective participation in all processes and that a gender perspective is mainstreamed in development, trade and financial institutions;

(d) Create an enabling environment and design and implement policies that promote and protect the enjoyment of all human rights — civil, cultural, economic, political and social rights, including the right to development — and fundamental freedoms, as part of the efforts to achieve gender equality, development and peace;

(e) Evaluate the relationship between the empowerment of women and poverty eradication in different stages of women's life cycle and analyse the intersection of gender and other factors, reflect the implications for policies and programmes and compile and widely disseminate good practices and lessons learned;

(f) Strengthen efforts to mainstream gender perspectives and the empowerment of women through the whole policy process, from the identification to the formulation, implementation, evaluation and follow-up of macroeconomic policies, as well as economic and social policy formulation and implementation and poverty eradication policies, programmes, development frameworks and strategies;

(g) Establish or improve gender-specific analysis of poverty and strengthen institutional capacities at all levels, including relevant national machineries, in order to undertake gender analysis in poverty eradication initiatives by, inter alia, the allocation of sufficient resources;

(h) Improve the collection, compilation and dissemination of timely, reliable, comparable data disaggregated by sex and age and further develop quantitative and qualitative indicators, including social indicators, by national and international statistical organizations so as to increase capacity to measure, assess and analyse poverty among women and men, including at the household level, and make progress in the empowerment of women throughout their life cycle;

(i) Encourage the inclusion of data on women's equal access to land and other property in United Nations reports;

(j) Identify and take all appropriate measures to address obstacles to the empowerment of women and to their full enjoyment of all human rights and fundamental freedoms throughout the life cycle with the view to eradicate poverty;

(k) Take the strongest measures to eliminate all forms of discrimination and violence against women and girls;

(l) Incorporate a gender perspective into the design, development, adoption and execution of all budgetary processes, as well as economic and financial policies, in a transparent manner so as to ensure, where appropriate, that national budget policies and priorities as well as resource allocations support the eradication of poverty, the empowerment of women and the achievement of gender equality goals, and ensure women's full participation in all such processes;

(m) Review and reform, where appropriate, fiscal policies, particularly taxation policies, to ensure equality between women and men in this regard;

(n) Strengthen the provision of and ensure access to adequate, affordable and accessible public and social services to meet the needs of all women, in particular women living in poverty;

(o) Design, implement and promote family friendly policies and services, including affordable, accessible and quality care services for children and other dependants, parental and other leave schemes and campaigns to sensitize public opinion and other relevant actors on equal sharing of employment and family responsibilities between women and men;

(p) Improve and develop physical and mental health programmes and services, including preventive health care, for women, particularly women living in poverty;

(q) Strengthen policies and programmes at the national level to provide equal access to health care services for all women and girls, particularly for those living in poverty;

(r) Create and ensure equal access to all types of permanent and sustainable social protection/social security systems at all stages throughout women's life cycle, taking into account the specific needs of all women living in poverty;

(s) Ensure full and equal access at all levels to formal and non-formal education and training for women and girls, including pregnant adolescents and adolescent mothers, as key to their empowerment by, inter alia, the reallocation of resources, as necessary;

(t) Take urgent and effective measures in accordance with international law with a view to alleviating negative impact of economic sanctions on women and children;

(u) Enhance market access for developing countries and countries with economies in transition, in particular for those sectors that provide greater employment opportunities for women, and expand access for women entrepreneurs to trade opportunities;

(v) Undertake socio-economic policies that promote sustainable development and support and ensure poverty eradication programmes, especially for women, by, inter alia, providing skills training, equal access to and control over resources, finance, credit, including microcredit, information and technology and equal access to markets to benefit women of all ages, in particular those living in poverty and marginalized women, including rural women, indigenous women and female-headed households;

(w) Take measures to develop and implement gender-sensitive programmes aimed at stimulating women's entrepreneurship and private initiative and assist women-owned business in participating in and benefiting from, inter alia, international trade, technological innovation and investment;

(x) Develop strategies to increase employment of women and to ensure that women, including women living in poverty, are protected by law against discriminatory terms and conditions of employment and any form of exploitation, that they benefit fully from job creation through a balanced representation of women and men in all sectors and occupations and that women receive equal pay for equal work or work of equal value to diminish differentials in incomes between women and men;

(y) Facilitate the transfer to developing countries and countries with economies in transition of appropriate technology, particularly new and modern technology, and encourage efforts by the international community to eliminate restrictions on such transfers as an effective means of complementing national efforts for further acceleration in achieving the goals of gender equality, development and peace;

(z) Promote and facilitate the equal access of women and girls, including those living in rural areas, to information and communication technologies, including newly developed technologies, and promote women's and girls' access to education and training in their use, access to, investment and use of these technologies for, inter alia, networking, advocacy, exchange of information, business, education, media consultation and e-commerce initiatives;

(aa) Ensure that national legislative and administrative reform processes, including those linked to land reform, decentralization and reorientation of the economy, promote women's rights, particularly those of rural women and women living in poverty, and take measures to promote and implement those rights through women's equal access to and control over economic resources, including land, property rights, right to inheritance, credit and traditional saving schemes, such as women's banks and cooperatives;

(bb) Ensure that clean water is available and accessible to all, particularly to women living in poverty;

(cc) Provide additional international financing and assistance to developing countries in support of their efforts to empower women and eradicate poverty and mainstream gender perspectives in the official development assistance process, including specific provisions for meeting the needs of women living in poverty in areas such as education, training, employment and health, as well as in social and

economic policies, including macroeconomic policies, with a view of achieving sustainable development, and urge developed countries that have not done so to make concrete efforts towards the target of 0.7 per cent of gross national product (GNP) as official development assistance to developing countries and 0.15 to 0.20 per cent of GNP of developed countries to least developed countries, as reconfirmed at the Third United Nations Conference on Least Developed Countries, and encourage developing countries to build on progress achieved in ensuring that official development assistance is used effectively to help achieve development goals and targets;

(dd) Promote, in the spirit of solidarity, international cooperation, including through voluntary contributions, in order to undertake actions in the field of poverty eradication, particularly among women and girls;

(ee) Ensure that women, especially poor women in developing countries, benefit from the pursuit of effective, equitable, development-oriented and durable solutions to the external debt and debt-servicing problems of developing countries, including the option of official development assistance debt cancellation, and call for continued international cooperation;

(ff) Forge constructive partnerships among Governments, NGOs, the private sector and other stakeholders to promote gender equality and the empowerment of women in poverty eradication efforts and to further support and encourage women and men, girls and boys, to form new advocacy networks and alliances.

6. The Commission on the Status of Women welcomes the convening of the International Conference on Financing for Development[29] and underlines the importance of its objectives in relation to gender equality, the empowerment of women and poverty eradication.

7. The Commission on the Status of Women also welcomes the convening of the Second World Assembly on Ageing, and stresses the importance of mainstreaming a gender perspective into the preparations, work and outcome, including the Political Declaration and International Plan of Action of the Assembly,[30] welcomes the involvement of all women in its work, and encourages the inclusion of women in delegations to the Assembly. Recognition should be given to the contribution of older women and special attention paid to their empowerment and well-being.

8. The Commission on the Status of Women further welcomes the convening of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, stresses the importance of mainstreaming a gender perspective and of the involvement of women in the preparations, work and outcome of the World Summit, and encourages the inclusion of women in delegations to the Summit.

B

Agreed conclusions on environmental management and the mitigation of natural disasters

1. The Commission on the Status of Women recalls that in the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action,[31] it was recognized that environmental

[29] See A/CONF.198/11.

[30] A/CONF.197/9.

[31] *Report of the Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing, 4-15 September 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.13), chap. I, resolution 1, annexes I and II.

degradation and disasters affect all human lives and often have a more direct impact on women and that it was recommended that the role of women and the environment be further investigated. The twenty-third special session of the General Assembly (2000) identified natural disasters as a current challenge affecting the full implementation of the Platform for Action and emphasized the need to incorporate a gender perspective in the development and implementation of disaster prevention, mitigation and recovery strategies. The Commission also recalls the resolve in the United Nations Millennium Declaration (General Assembly resolution 55/2) to intensify cooperation to reduce the number and effects of natural and man-made disasters, as well as General Assembly resolution 46/182, which contained the guiding principles on humanitarian assistance.

2. Deeply convinced that economic development, social development and environmental protection are interdependent and mutually reinforcing components of sustainable development, which is the framework for our efforts to achieve a higher quality of life for all people.

3. The Commission reiterates the strategic objectives and actions adopted by the Fourth World Conference on Women, held in Beijing in 1995, and in the outcome document of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly, held in New York in 2000, entitled "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century".[27]

4. The Commission recognizes that women play a vital role in disaster reduction (prevention, mitigation and preparedness), response and recovery and in natural resources management, that disaster situations aggravate vulnerable conditions and that some women face particular vulnerabilities in this context.

5. The Commission also recognizes that women's strengths in dealing with disasters and supporting their families and communities should be built upon following disasters to rebuild and restore their communities and mitigate against future disasters.

6. The Commission recognizes the need to enhance women's capacities and institutional mechanisms to respond to disasters in order to enhance gender equality and the empowerment of women.

7. The Commission urges Governments and, as appropriate, also urges the relevant funds and programmes, organizations and the specialized agencies of the United Nations system, the international financial institutions, civil society, including the private sector and NGOs, and other stakeholders, to take the following actions to accelerate implementation of these strategic objectives to address the needs of all women:

(a) Pursue gender equality and gender-sensitive environmental management and disaster reduction, response and recovery as an integral part of sustainable development;

(b) Take measures to integrate a gender perspective in the design and implementation of, among other things, environmentally sound and sustainable resource and disaster management mechanisms and establish mechanisms to review such efforts;

(c) Ensure the full participation of women in sustainable development decision-making and disaster reduction management at all levels;

(d) Ensure the full enjoyment by women and girls of all human rights — civil, cultural, economic, political and social, including the right to development — including in disaster reduction, response and recovery; in this context, special attention should be giver to the prevention and prosecution of gender-based violence;

(e) Mainstream a gender perspective into ongoing research by, inter alia, the academic sector on the impact of climate change, natural hazards, disasters and related environmental vulnerability, including their root causes, and encourage the application of the results of this research in policies and programmes;

(f) Collect demographic and socio-economic data and information disaggregated by sex and age, develop national gender-sensitive indicators and analyse gender differences with regard to environmental management, disaster occurrence and associated losses and risks and vulnerability reduction;

(g) Develop, review and implement, as appropriate, with the involvement and participation of women's groups, gender sensitive laws, policies and programmes, including on land-use and urbanization planning, natural resource and environmental management and integrated water resources management, to provide opportunities to prevent and mitigate damage;

(h) Encourage, as appropriate, the development and implementation of national building standards that take into account natural hazards so that women, men and their families are not exposed to high risk from disasters;

(i) Include gender analysis and methods of mapping hazards and vulnerabilities at the design stage of all relevant development programmes and projects in order to improve the effectiveness of disaster risk management, involving women and men equally;

(j) Ensure women's equal access to information and formal and non-formal education on disaster reduction, including through gender-sensitive early warning systems, and empower women to take related action in a timely and appropriate manner;

(k) Promote income generating activities and employment opportunities, including through the provision of microcredit and other financial instruments, ensure equal access to resources, in particular land and property ownership, including housing, and take measures to empower women as producers and consumers, in order to enhance the capacity of women to respond to disasters;

(l) Design and implement gender-sensitive economic relief and recovery projects and ensure equal economic opportunities for women, including both in the formal and non-formal sectors, taking into account the loss of land and property, including housing and other productive and personal assets;

(m) Make women full and equal partners in the development of safer communities and in determining national or local priorities for disaster reduction and incorporate local and indigenous knowledge, skills and capacities into environmental management and disaster reduction;

(n) Support capacity-building at all levels aimed at disaster reduction, based on knowledge about women's and men's needs and opportunities;

(o) Introduce formal and non-formal education and training programmes at all levels, including in the areas of science, technology and economics, with an

integrated and gender-sensitive approach to environmentally sound and sustainable resource management and disaster reduction, response and recovery in order to change behaviour and attitudes in rural and urban areas;

(p) Ensure the implementation of their commitments by all Governments made in Agenda 21 and the Beijing Platform for Action and the outcome document of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly,[27] including those in the areas of financial and technical assistance and the transfer of environmentally sound technologies to the developing countries, and ensure that a gender perspective is mainstreamed into all such assistance and transfers;

(q) Document good practice and lessons-learned, particularly from effective community-based strategies for disaster reduction, response and recovery, which actively involve women as well as men, and widely disseminate this information to all stakeholders;

(r) Improve and develop physical and mental health programmes, services and social support networks for women who suffer from the effects of natural disasters, including trauma;

(s) Strengthen the capacities of ministries, emergency authorities, practitioners and communities to apply a gender-sensitive approach to environmental management and disaster reduction and the involvement of women professionals and field workers;

(t) Forge constructive partnerships between Governments, international organizations and civil society, including the private sector and NGOs, and other stakeholders in integrated and gender sensitive sustainable development initiatives to reduce environmental risks;

(u) Encourage civil society, including NGOs, to mainstream a gender perspective in the promotion of sustainable development initiatives, including in disaster reduction;

(v) Ensure coordination in the United Nations system, including the full and active participation of funds, programmes and specialized agencies to mainstream a gender perspective in sustainable development including, inter alia, environmental management and disaster reduction activities.

8. The Commission on the Status of Women calls for the integration of a gender perspective in the implementation of all policies and treaties related to sustainable development and in the review of the implementation of the Yokohama Strategy for a Safer World: Guidelines for Natural Disaster Prevention, Preparedness and Mitigation and its Plan of Action, scheduled for 2004.

9. The Commission on the Status of Women welcomes the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction efforts to mainstream a gender perspective in the mitigation of disasters.

10. The Commission on the Status of Women welcomes the policy statement of the Inter-agency Standing Committee for the integration of a gender perspective in humanitarian affairs of 31 May 1999.

11. The Commission on the Status of Women welcomes the convening of the International Conference on Financing for Development[29] and takes note of the recognition contained in the draft Monterrey Consensus of the particular needs of

women and the importance of gender equality and the empowerment of women, as well as the recognition of the impact of disasters.

12. The Commission on the Status of Women also welcomes the convening of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, to be held in Johannesburg, stresses the importance of gender mainstreaming throughout the process and urges gender balance in the composition of delegations as well as the involvement and full participation of women in the preparations, work and outcome of the World Summit, thus renewing the commitment to gender equality objectives at the international level. The Commission on the Status of Women further reiterates that all States and all people shall cooperate in the essential task of eradicating poverty as an indispensable requirement for sustainable development, in order to decrease the disparities in standards of living and better meet the needs of the majority of the people of the world.

B. Draft decisions for adoption by the Council

2. The Commission on the Status of Women also recommends to the Economic and Social Council the adoption of the following draft decisions:

Draft decision I
Election of the Bureau of the Commission on the Status of Women*

The Economic and Social Council, in order to improve the work of the Commission on the Status of Women and to ensure continuity in the work of its successive Bureaux, decides:

(a) That the terms of office of the members of the Commission will be for four regular sessions of the Commission, to begin immediately after the conclusion of work of the Commission's regular session held after 1 January, following their election by the Council, and to end at the conclusion of the regular session held after 1 January, following the election of the States that are to succeed them as members of the Commission, unless they are re-elected;

(b) To extend the terms of office of those members of the Commission whose terms are to expire:

(i) On 31 December 2002, until the conclusion of the forty-seventh session of the Commission;

(ii) On 31 December 2003, until the conclusion of the forty-eighth session of the Commission;

(iii) On 31 December 2004, until the conclusion of the forty-ninth session of the Commission;

(c) That, starting with the forty-seventh session in 2003, the Commission, immediately following the closure of a regular session, will hold the first meeting of its subsequent regular session for the sole purpose of electing the new Chairperson and other members of the Bureau, in accordance with rule 15 of the rules of procedure of the functional Commissions of the Council;

* For the discussion, see chap. II.

(d) That, in this context, the provisions of General Assembly resolution 1798 (XVII) of 11 December 1962 will apply only to the substantive part of the sessions of the Commission.

Draft decision II

The Commission on the Status of Women, recalling its decision 45/103 of 16 March 2001 on the communications procedure of the Commission and ways and means to make it more effective and efficient, and having considered the reports of the Secretary-General,[32] and the different views expressed by Members States and Observers of the Commission on the Status of Women, recommends to the Economic and Social Council the adoption of the following draft decision:

Communications concerning the status of women: communications procedure

The Economic and Social Council,

Reaffirming the mandate of the Commission on the Status of Women as set out in its resolutions 76 (V) of 5 August 1947, 304 I (XI) of 14 and 17 July 1950, 1983/27 of 26 May 1983, 1992/19 of 30 July 1992 and 1993/11 of 27 July 1993,

Decides, in order to make the communications procedure of the Commission on the Status of Women more effective and efficient:

(a) That the Commission, starting from its forty-seventh session, should appoint, at each session, the members of the Working Group on Communications on the Status of Women for the next session so that the members can meet to enable the Secretariat to issue their report three working days before the adoption of the agenda by the Commission;

(b) To request the Secretary-General (i) to inform Governments about each communication pertaining to them that will be considered by the Commission and give them at least twelve weeks before the consideration of such communications by the Working Group on communications, and (ii) to ensure that the members of the Working Group receive in advance the lists of communications, including replies from Governments, if any, to be taken into account in preparing its report for examination by the Commission;

(c) To request the Secretary-General to further publicize the communications procedure of the Commission.

Draft decision III
Report of the Commission on the Status of Women on its forty-sixth session and the provisional agenda for the forty-seventh session of the Commission

The Economic and Social Council takes note of the report of the Commission on the Status of Women on its forty-sixth session and approves the provisional agenda for the forty-seventh session of the Commission set out below.

[32] E/CN.6/2001/12 and E/CN.6/2002/12.

Provisional agenda for the forty-seventh session of the Commission

1. Election of officers.
2. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters.
3. Follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women and to the special session of the General Assembly entitled "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century":
   (a) Review of gender mainstreaming in entities of the United Nations system;
   (b) Emerging issues, trends and new approaches to issues affecting the situation of women or equality between women and men;
   (c) Implementation of strategic objectives and action in the critical areas of concern and further actions and initiatives:
   (i) Participation and access of women to the media and information and communication technologies and their impact on and use as an instrument for the advancement and empowerment of women;
   (ii) Women's human rights and the elimination of all forms of violence against women and girls, as defined in the Beijing Platform for Action and the outcome documents of the special session of the General Assembly entitled "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century".
4. Communications concerning the status of women.
5. Follow-up to Economic and Social Council resolutions and decisions.
6. Provisional agenda for the forty-eighth session of the Commission.
7. Adoption of the report of the Commission on its forty-seventh session.

C. Matters brought to the attention of the Council

3. The following resolutions and decisions adopted by the Commission are brought to the attention of the Council:

Resolution 46/1
Release of women and children taken hostage, including those subsequently imprisoned, in armed conflicts*

The Commission on the Status of Women,

Recalling its resolutions 39/2 of 31 March 1995, 40/1 of 22 March 1996, 41/1 of 21 March 1997, 42/2 of 13 March 1998, 43/1 of 12 March 1999, 44/1 of 2 March 2000 and 45/1 of 17 March 2001,

Recalling also the relevant provisions contained in the instruments of international humanitarian law relative to the protection of the civilian population, as such,

* For the discussion, see chap. III.

Taking into account the International Convention against the Taking of Hostages, adopted by the General Assembly in its resolution 34/146 of 17 December 1979, which also recognizes that everyone has the right to life, liberty and security of person and that the taking of hostages is an offence of grave concern to the international community,

Welcoming the adoption of the Beijing Declaration[33] and Platform for Action[34] adopted by the Fourth World Conference on Women, as well as the final outcome document of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly entitled "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century",[35] including the provisions regarding violence against women and children,

Recalling Commission on Human Rights resolution 2001/38 of 23 April 2001 on hostage-taking, adopted at the fifty-seventh session, of the Commission,[36]

Expressing grave concern at the continuation of armed conflicts in many regions throughout the world and the human suffering and humanitarian emergencies they have caused,

Emphasizing that all forms of violence in areas of armed conflict committed against the civilian population, including taking women and children hostage, seriously contravene international humanitarian law, in particular as set out in the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949,[37]

Concerned that, despite the efforts of the international community, acts of hostage-taking in different forms and manifestations, inter alia, those committed by terrorists and armed groups, continue to take place and have even increased in many regions of the world,

Recognizing that hostage-taking calls for resolute, firm and concerted efforts on the part of the international community in order, in strict conformity with international human rights standards, to bring such abhorrent practices to an end,

Expressing its strong belief that the rapid and unconditional release of women and children taken hostage in areas of armed conflict will promote the implementation of the noble goals enshrined in the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome documents of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly entitled "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century",[38]

1. *Reaffirms* that hostage-taking, wherever and by whomever committed, is an illegal act aimed at the destruction of human rights and is, under any circumstances, unjustifiable, including as a means to promote and protect human rights;

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[33] *Report of the Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing, 4-15 September 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.13), chap. I, resolution 1, annex I.

[34] Ibid., annex II.

[35] General Assembly resolution S-23/3, annex.

[36] See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2001, Supplement No. 3* (E/2001/23), chap. II, sect. A.

[37] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 75, Nos. 970-973.

[38] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Twenty-third Special Session, Supplement No. 1* (A/S-23/13), resolutions S-23/2, annex, and S-23/3, annex.

2. *Condemns* violent acts in contravention of international humanitarian law against the civilian population, as such, in areas of armed conflict, and calls for an effective response to such acts, in particular the immediate release of women and children taken hostage, including those subsequently imprisoned, in armed conflicts;

3. *Also condemns* the consequences of hostage-taking, in particular, torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment, rape, slavery, and trafficking in women and children for the purpose of their sexual exploitation, forced labour or services;

4. *Strongly urges* all parties to armed conflicts to respect fully the norms of international humanitarian law in armed conflict and to take all necessary measures for the protection of the civilian population, as such, and to release immediately all women and children who have been taken hostage;

5. *Urges* all parties to armed conflicts to provide safe and unimpeded access to humanitarian assistance for these women and children;

6. *Requests* the Secretary-General and all relevant international organizations to use their capabilities and efforts to facilitate the immediate release of civilian women and children who have been taken hostage;

7. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to prepare, taking into account the information provided by States and relevant international organizations, a report on the implementation of the present resolution for submission to the Commission on the Status of Women at is forty-eighth session;

8. *Decides* to consider the question at its forty-eighth session.

Resolution 46/2
Women, the girl child and human immunodeficiency virus/acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (HIV/AIDS)*

The Commission on the Status of Women,

Welcoming General Assembly resolution S-26/2 of 27 June 2001, entitled "Declaration of Commitment on HIV/AIDS", adopted at its twenty-sixth special session, held in New York from 25 to 27 June 2001,

Recalling the agreed conclusions adopted at the forty-fifth session of the Commission on the Status of Women entitled "Women, the girl child and human immunodeficiency virus/acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (HIV/AIDS)",[39]

1. *Reaffirms* the need for Governments, supported by relevant actors, to urgently implement the commitments on the HIV/AIDS goals and objectives contained in the "Declaration of Commitment on HIV/AIDS" adopted at the twenty-sixth special session of the General Assembly;[40]

2. *Stresses* that gender equality and the empowerment of women are fundamental elements in the reduction of the vulnerability of women and girls to HIV/AIDS;

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* For the discussion, see chap. III.

[39] *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2001, Supplement No. 1* (E/2001/99), resolution 2001/5.

[40] General Assembly resolution S-26/2.

3. *Invites* the Secretary-General, in his reports on HIV/AIDS, to take a gender perspective into account.

Resolution 46/3
Mainstreaming a gender perspective into all policies and programmes in the United Nations system*

The Commission on the Status of Women,

Recalling its resolution 45/2 of 17 March 2001, Economic and Social Council resolution 2001/41 of 26 July 2001 and General Assembly resolution 56/132 of 19 December 2001,

1. *Welcomes* the report of the Secretary-General on measures taken and progress achieved in the follow-up to and implementation of the Fourth World Conference on Women and the special session of the General Assembly entitled "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century", especially in mainstreaming a gender perspective in entities of the United Nations system;[41]

2. *Also welcomes* the establishment of a regular sub-item on gender mainstreaming on the agenda of the Economic and Social Council as well as the Council's decision to devote a coordination segment, before 2005, to the review and appraisal of system-wide implementation of Economic and Social Council agreed conclusions 1997/2 on mainstreaming a gender perspective into all policies and programmes of the United Nations system;[42]

3. *Notes with appreciation* the activities undertaken by entities of the United Nations system, as outlined in the report of the Secretary-General, and encourages them to continue these efforts;

4. *Takes note* of the recommendations contained in the report of the Secretary-General and looks forward to further consideration of this issue by the Economic and Social Council.

Decision 46/101
Further organizational matters of the Commission on the Status of Women*

The Commission on the Status of Women, in order to further develop opportunities for sharing national experience during its annual session, in particular with regard to the implementation of the Beijing Declaration[43] and Platform for Action[43] and the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly,[44] and to enhance its working methods, building upon its agreed conclusions 1996/1 and taking into account Economic and Social Council resolution 2001/27 of 26 July 2001:

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* For the discussion, see chap. II.

41 E/CN.6/2002/2.

42 See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-second Session, Supplement No. 3* (A/52/3), chap. IV, para. 4.

43 *Report of the Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing, 4-15 September 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.13).

44 General Assembly resolutions S-23/2 and S-23/3.

(a) Decides, starting from its forty-seventh session, in 2003, to introduce the option of high-level round tables and to authorize the Bureau to decide, after consultation with all interested States through the regional groups, on the number, timing and theme of any such round tables;

(b) Stresses the need for the outcome of the substantive consideration of thematic issues to be concise and action-oriented.

Decision 46/102
Communications concerning the status of women

The Commission on the Status of Women takes note of the report of the Working Group on Communications on the Status of Women and further notes the concerns expressed by some Governments in their responses. While acknowledging that the responses submitted by Governments to confidential communications indicated their commitment to the improvement of the status of women, the Commission recommends further public education campaigns and gender-awareness training for specific sectors, especially the police forces, directed at the elimination of stereotypical attitudes towards women and girls. It recommends training for law enforcement, security and military personnel and other government officials with respect to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women,[45] the Beijing Declaration[46] and Platform for Action,[46] and the relevant recommendations of the outcome document of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly on the five-year follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women[47] and other relevant human rights documents, as well as the Geneva Conventions.[48]

Decision 46/103
Documents considered by the Commission on the Status of Women under agenda items 3 and 4

At its 16th meeting, on 25 March 2002, the Commission on the Status of Women took note of the following documents:

(a) Report of the Secretary-General on release of women and children taken hostage, including those subsequently imprisoned, in armed conflicts;[49]

(b) Report of the Secretary-General on the joint work plan of the Office of the Special Adviser on Gender Issues and Advancement of Women, the Division for the Advancement of Women and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights;[50]

(c) Report of the Secretary-General on improvement of the status of women in the United Nations system;[51]

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[45] General Assembly resolution 34/180, annex.
[46] *Report of the Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing, 4-15 September 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.13), chap. I, resolution 1, annexes I and II.
[47] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Twenty-third Special Session, Supplement No. 1* (A/S-23/1), resolutions S-23/2, annex, and S-23/3, annex.
[48] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 75, Nos. 970-973.
[49] E/CN.6/2002/4.
[50] E/CN.6/2002/6.
[51] E/CN.6/2002/7.

(d) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the United Nations Development Fund for Women on the activities of the Fund to eliminate violence against women;[52]

(e) Report of the Secretary-General on thematic issues before the Commission on the Status of Women;[53]

(f) Report of the Secretary-General assessing the implications of the reforms of mechanisms in the human rights area (1503 procedure) for communications concerning the status of women.[54]

[52] E/CN.4/2002/136-E/CN.6/2002/8.
[53] E/CN.6/2002/9.
[54] E/CN.6/2002/12.

Chapter II

Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters

1. The Commission on the Status of Women considered agenda item 2 at its 1st, 9th and 12th meetings, on 4, 11 and 15 March 2002. It had before it the provisional agenda (E/CN.6/2002/1) and a letter dated 8 October 2001 from the President of the Economic and Social Council to the Chairperson of the Commission on the Status of Women (E/CN.6/2002/10).

2. At the 1st meeting, on 4 March, statements were made by the observers for India and Suriname on the organization of work (see chap. VIII, sect. D, for the agenda and organization of work).

Action taken by the Commission

Election of the Bureau of the Commission on the Status of Women

3. At the 9th meeting, on 11 March, the Commission had before it a draft decision entitled "Election of the Bureau of the Commission on the Status of Women" (E/CN.6/2002/L.6), which had been submitted by the Chairman on the basis of informal consultations.

4. At the 12th meeting, on 15 March, the Commission was advised that the draft decision contained no programme budget implications.

5. At the same meeting, the Commission recommended the draft decision for adoption by the Economic and Social Council (see chap. I, sect. B, draft decision I).

Further organizational matters of the Commission on the Status of Women

6. At the 12th meeting, on 15 March, the Commission had before it a draft decision entitled "Further organizational matters of the Commission on the Status of Women" (E/CN.6/2002/L.8), which had been submitted by the Vice-Chairperson on the basis of informal consultations.

7. The Commission was advised that the draft decision contained no programme budget implications.

8. At the same meeting, the Commission adopted the draft decision, as orally corrected (see chap. I, sect. C, decision 46/101).

9. Before the draft decision was adopted, statements were made by the representatives of the United States of America and Chile and the observer for India, as well as by the Vice-Chairperson; after it was adopted, statements were made by the representative of Guatemala and the observer for Iraq.

Chapter III

Follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women and to the special session of the General Assembly entitled "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century"

1. The Commission considered agenda item 3 at its 1st to 6th, 9th, 12th, 14th and 16th meetings, from 4 to 6, and on 11, 15 and 25 March 2002. It had before it the following documents:

(a) Report of the Secretary-General on measures taken and progress achieved in the follow-up to and implementation of the Fourth World Conference on Women and the special session of the General Assembly entitled "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century", especially in mainstreaming a gender perspective in entities of the United Nations system (E/CN.6/2002/2);

(b) Report of the Secretary-General on the situation of and assistance to Palestinian women (E/CN.6/2002/3);

(c) Report of the Secretary-General on release of women and children taken hostage, including those subsequently imprisoned, in armed conflicts (E/CN.6/2002/4);

(d) Report of the Secretary-General on discrimination against women and girls in Afghanistan (E/CN.6/2002/5);

(e) Report of the Secretary-General on the joint work plan of the Office of the Special Adviser on Gender Issues and Advancement of Women, the Division for the Advancement of Women and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (E/CN.4/2002/82-E/CN.6/2002/6);

(f) Report of the Secretary-General on the improvement of the status of women in the United Nations system (E/CN.6/2002/7);

(g) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the United Nations Development Fund for Women on the activities of the Fund to eliminate violence against women (E/CN.4/2002/136-E/CN.6/2002/8);

(h) Report of the Secretary-General on thematic issues before the Commission on the Status of Women (E/CN.6/2002/9);

(i) Letter dated 8 October 2001 from the President of the Economic and Social Council to the Chairperson of the Commission on the Status of Women (E/CN.6/2002/10);

(j) Note by the Secretariat on follow-up to Economic and Social Council resolutions and decisions (E/CN.6/2002/11);

(k) Report of the Secretary-General assessing the implications of the reforms of mechanisms in the human rights area (1503 procedure) for communications concerning the status of women (E/CN.6/2002/12);

(l) Statement submitted by Soroptimist International, a non-governmental organization in general consultative status with the Economic and Social Council (E/CN.6/2002/NGO/1);

(m) Statement submitted by HelpAge International, International Alliance of Women, International Council of Women, International Federation of Business and Professional Women and Soroptimist International, non-governmental organizations in general consultative status with the Economic and Social Council; Associated Country Women of the World, Centre for Women, the Earth, the Divine, European Women's Lobby, International Federation of University Women, Italian Centre of Solidarity, National Council of German Women's Organizations, Pax Romana, Salvation Army, School Sisters of Notre Dame, Socialist International Women, and Women's International Zionist Organization, non-governmental organizations in special consultative status with the Economic and Social Council; and European Union of Women and International Association for Counselling, non-governmental organizations on the Roster (E/CN.6/2002/NGO/2);

(n) Statement submitted by HelpAge International, International Alliance of Women, International Council of Women, International Federation of Business and Professional Women and Soroptimist International, non-governmental organizations in general consultative status with the Economic and Social Council; Associated Country Women of the World, Centre for Women, the Earth, the Divine, European Women's Lobby, International Federation of University Women, Italian Centre of Solidarity, National Council of German Women's Organizations, Pax Romana, Salvation Army, School Sisters of Notre Dame, Socialist International Women and Women's International Zionist Organization, non-governmental organizations in special consultative status with the Economic and Social Council; and European Union of Women and International Association for Counselling, non-governmental organizations on the Roster (E/CN.6/2002/NGO/3);

(o) Statement submitted by the Women's National Commission, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status with the Economic and Social Council (E/CN.6/2002/NGO/4);

(p) Statement submitted by the World Veterans Federation, a non-governmental organization in general consultative status with the Economic and Social Council (E/CN.6/2002/NGO/5);

(q) Statement submitted by Rotary International, a non-governmental organization in general consultative status with the Economic and Social Council (E/CN.6/2002/NGO/6);

(r) Statement submitted by Zonta International, a non-governmental organization in general consultative status with the Economic and Social Council (E/CN.6/2002/NGO/7);

(s) Statement submitted by Legião da Boa Vontade, a non-governmental organization in general consultative status with the Economic and Social Council (E/CN.6/2002/NGO/8);

(t) Statement submitted by the International Alliance of Women, International Council of Women, International Federation of Business and Professional Women, International Federation of Settlements and Neighbourhood Centres, Soroptimist International, World Association of Girl Guides and Girl

Scouts and Zonta International, non-governmental organizations in general consultative status with the Economic and Social Council; All India Women's Conference, Associated Country Women of the World, Baha'i International Community, International Federation of University Women, International Federation of Women in Legal Careers, International Federation of Women Lawyers, Pan-Pacific and South-East Asia Wom n's Association, United States Committee for UNIFEM and World Young Women's Christian Association, non-governmental organizations in special consultative status with the Economic and Social Council; and Altrusa International, Armenian International Women's Association, and United Nations Association of the United States of America, non-governmental organizations on the Roster (E/CN.6/2002/NGO/9);

(u) Statement submitted by International Federation of Business and Professional Women, a non-governmental organization in general consultative status with the Economic and Social Council; and Coalition against Trafficking in Women, Congregation of Our Lady of Charity of the Good Shepherd, Miramed Institute, Mouvement pour l'abolition de la prostitution et de la pornographie et de toutes formes de violences sexuelles et discriminations sexistes and World Federation for Mental Health, non-governmental organizations in special consultative status with the Economic and Social Council (E/CN.6/2002/NGO/10);

(v) Statement submitted by the Fédération européenne des femmes actives au foyer, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status with the Economic and Social Council (E/CN.6/2002/NGO/11);

(w) Statement submitted by Mother's Union, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status with the Economic and Social Council (E/CN.6/2002/NGO/12);

(x) Statement submitted by Human Rights Advocates International, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status with the Economic and Social Council (E/CN.6/2002/NGO/13);

(y) Note by the Secretary-General on the results of the twenty-sixth session of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (E/CN.6/2002/CRP.1);

(z) Note by the Secretariat on proposed revisions to the medium-term plan for the period 2002-2005 (E/CN.6/2002/CRP.2).

2. At its 1st to 4th meetings, on 4 and 5 March, the Commission held a general discussion on agenda item 3.

3. At the 1st meeting, on 4 March, introductory statements were made by the Special Adviser to the Secretary-General on Gender Issues and Advancement of Women, the Director of the Division for the Advancement of Women, the Deputy Executive Director of the United Nations Development Fund for Women and the Chairperson of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women.

4. At the same meeting, statements were made by the representatives of Peru, the Republic of Korea and South Africa and by the observers for Venezuela (on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China), Spain (on behalf of the European Union and the associated countries of Bulgaria, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Cyprus, Malta, Turkey and Iceland), Norway and Sweden.

5. At the 2nd meeting, on 4 March, statements were made by the representatives of Denmark, Germany and Japan and by the observers for Thailand, Israel, Canada, Costa Rica (on behalf of the Rio Group), Jamaica and Rwanda.

6. The observer for Switzerland also made a statement.

7. Statements were also made by the representatives of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the International Fund for Agricultural Development and the World Health Organization.

8. At the same meeting, observers for the following non-governmental organizations also made statements: Caucus of Working Group on Girls; spokesperson on behalf of the International Council of Women, International Business and Professional Women, International Federation of University Women, Soroptimist International and Zonta International; Youth Caucus; International Health Awareness Network; and Women's National Commission of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

9. At the 3rd meeting, on 5 March, statements were made by the representatives of China, Argentina, Brazil, Chile, the United States of America, Guatemala, Croatia, Indonesia, the United Republic of Tanzania, the Islamic Republic of Iran, the Russian Federation, Cuba, Burkina Faso, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and Burundi, and by the observers for Bangladesh, Ghana and Liechtenstein.

10. The observer for Palestine also made a statement.

11. Statements were also made by the representatives of the International Labour Organization and the World Bank.

12. At the same meeting, statements were made by the representatives of the United Nations Population Fund and the Economic and Social Council for Asia and the Pacific (on behalf of the five regional commissions).

13. The observer for the International Organization for Migration also made a statement.

14. Also at the same meeting, the observer for the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions, a non-governmental organization in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council, made a statement.

15. At the 4th meeting, on 5 March, statements were made by the representatives of Lithuania, the Dominican Republic, Turkey, Mexico, Malaysia, Egypt, Tunisia, Pakistan, Azerbaijan and Gabon, and the observers for Angola, the Syrian Arab Republic, Romania, Kenya, Namibia, Ecuador, Fiji, Australia, New Zealand, Iraq and Suriname.

16. At the same meeting, the observer for the Subcommittee on Older Women of the NGO Committee on the Status of Women also made a statement.

Panel discussions on agenda item 3 (c)

A. Eradicating poverty, including through the empowerment of women throughout their life cycle in a globalizing world

17. At its 5th meeting, on 6 March, the Commission held a panel discussion and dialogue on eradicating poverty, including through the empowerment of women throughout their life cycle in a globalizing world (agenda item 3 (c) (i)).

18. Presentations were made by the following experts: Ms. Savitri Bisnath (Trinidad and Tobago), Doctoral Candidate in the Department of City and Regional Planning, Cornell University; Ms. Gaudence Rwamaheke (Burundi), Director, Ministry of Social Action and the Advancement of Women; and Mr. Jan Vandemoortele (Belgium), Doctor of Development Economics and principal adviser and group leader for socio-economic development at the United Nations Development Programme.

19. The Commission then held a dialogue with the panel of experts in which the following delegations participated: Turkey, Norway, Burkina Faso, Guatemala, Spain (on behalf of the European Union), Botswana, Romania, Israel, the Republic of Korea, Kenya, Tunisia, Finland, Senegal, Argentina, Bangladesh, the United States of America, Peru, Ghana, the Netherlands, Mexico, Pakistan, Rwanda, Indonesia, China and Cuba.

20. Observers for the following non-governmental organizations also participated in the dialogue: African Women's Caucus; International Federation of University Women (on behalf of the NGO Committee on the Status of Women, Geneva); and Women's International Coalition for Economic Justice.

B. Environmental management and mitigation of natural disasters: a gender perspective

21. At the 6th meeting, on 6 March, the Commission held a panel discussion and dialogue on environmental management and mitigation of natural disasters: a gender perspective (agenda item 3 (c) (ii)).

22. Presentations were made by the following experts: Mr. Sálvano Briceño (Venezuela), Director of the United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (ISDR); Ms. Idiatou Camara (Guinea), National Director of the Environment; Ms. Elaine Enarson (United States of America), independent scholar and sociology and women's studies teacher; and Ms. J. Marie Yolene V. Surena (Haiti), Director, Civil Protection Direction, Ministry of the Interior.

23. The Commission then held a dialogue with the panel of experts in which the following delegations participated: Benin, Fiji, Mongolia, the Republic of Korea, Spain (on behalf of the European Union), Norway, China, Denmark, Cuba, Senegal, Indonesia, Israel, Guinea, Kenya, the Netherlands, Australia, Turkey, the United States of America, Thailand and Haiti.

24. The observer for the Commonwealth Secretariat also spoke.

25. Observers for the following non-governmental organizations also participated in the dialogue: Union Nationale des Femmes Marocaines; Armenian Assembly of America; and NGO Environmental Management and Natural Disaster Caucus.

26. The principal elements emerging from the panel discussions were summarized by the moderators of the panel discussions, Fernando Estellita Kins de Salvo Coimbra (Brazil) and Kyung-wha Kang (Republic of Korea), Vice-Chairpersons of the Commission. The texts were approved by the Commission for inclusion as an annex to its report (see annexes I and II). The texts were neither negotiated nor adopted by the Commission.

Action taken by the Commission

Release of women and children taken hostage, including those subsequently imprisoned, in armed conflicts

27. At the 9th meeting, on 11 March, the representative of Azerbaijan, also on behalf of Armenia,[1] Burundi, Georgia,[1] Kazakhstan, Tajikistan,[1] Turkey and Uzbekistan,[1] introduced a draft resolution entitled "Release of women and children taken hostage, including those subsequently imprisoned, in armed conflicts" (E/CN.6/2002/L.1), which read as follows:

"*The Commission on the Status of Women*,

"*Recalling*, its resolutions 39/2 of 31 March 1995, 40/1 of 22 March 1996, 41/1 of 21 March 1997, 42/2 of 13 March 1998, 43/1 of 12 March 1999, 44/1 of 2 March 2000 and 45/1 of 17 March 2001,

"*Recalling also* the relevant provisions contained in the instruments of international humanitarian law relative to the protection of civilians, including women and children, in areas of armed conflict,

"*Taking into account* the International Convention against the Taking of Hostages, adopted by the General Assembly in its resolution 34/146 of 17 December 1979, which also recognizes that everyone has the right to life, liberty and security of person and that the taking of hostages is an offence of grave concern to the international community,

"*Welcoming* the adoption of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action adopted by the Fourth World Conference on Women, including the provisions regarding violence against women and children, as well as the final outcome document of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly entitled 'Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century',

"*Recalling* Commission on Human Rights resolution 2001/38 of 23 April 2001 on hostage-taking, adopted at the fifty-seventh session of the Commission,

"*Expressing grave concern* at the continuation of armed conflicts in many regions throughout the world and the human suffering and humanitarian emergencies they have caused,

[1] In accordance with rule 69 of the rules of procedure of the functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council.

"*Emphasizing* that all forms of violence in areas of armed conflict committed against the civilian population, including women and children, including capturing them as hostages, seriously contravene international humanitarian law, as set out in the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949 for the protection of victims of war and the Protocols additional thereto,

"*Concerned* that, despite the efforts of the international community, acts of hostage-taking in different forms and manifestations, inter alia, those committed by terrorists and armed groups, continue to take place and have even increased in many regions of the world,

"*Recognizing* that hostage-taking calls for resolute, firm and concerted efforts on the part of the international community in order, in strict conformity with international human rights standards, to bring such abhorrent practices to an end,

"*Expressing its strong belief* that the rapid and unconditional release of women and children taken hostage in areas of armed conflict will promote the implementation of the noble goals enshrined in the Beijing Declaration and the Platform for Action,

"1. *Reaffirms* that hostage-taking, wherever and by whomsoever committed, is an illegal act aimed at the destruction of human rights and is, under any circumstances, unjustifiable, including as a means to promote and protect human rights;

"2. *Condemns* violent acts in contravention of international humanitarian law against civilian women and children in areas of armed conflict, and calls for an effective response to such acts, including the immediate release of such women and children taken hostage, including those subsequently imprisoned, in armed conflicts;

"3. *Condemns also* torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment, as well as rape, slavery, and trafficking in women and children for the removal of organs, which are the most grave consequences of hostage-taking;

"4. *Strongly urges* all parties to armed conflicts to respect fully the norms of international humanitarian law in armed conflict and to take all necessary measures for the protection of civilian women and children not involved in hostilities and for their immediate release;

"5. *Urges* all parties to armed conflicts to provide safe and unimpeded access to humanitarian assistance for these women and children;

"6. *Requests* the Secretary-General and all relevant international organizations to use their capabilities and efforts to facilitate the immediate release of civilian women and children involved in hostilities;

"7. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to prepare, taking into account the information provided by States and relevant international organizations, a report on the implementation of the present resolution for submission to the Commission on the Status of Women at is forty-seventh session;

"8. *Decides* to consider the question at its forty-seventh session."

28. At the same meeting, the representative of Azerbaijan orally revised the draft resolution. The revisions were subsequently issued in document E/CN.6/2002/L.1/Rev.1, which was before the Commission at its 14th meeting, on 15 March.

29. At the 14th meeting, on 15 March, the representative of Azerbaijan introduced revisions to draft resolution E/CN.6/2002/L.1/Rev.1, which were circulated in an informal paper.

30. At the same meeting, Burkina Faso, Ghana,[1] the Islamic Republic of Iran, Kyrgyzstan, Malaysia, Pakistan, the Philippines,[1] Suriname[1] and the United States of America joined in sponsoring the revised draft resolution, as further revised.

31. The Commission was advised that the revised draft resolution contained no programme budget implications.

32. Also at the 14th meeting, the Commission adopted the revised draft resolution, as further revised (see chap. I, sect. C, resolution 46/1).

The situation of and assistance to Palestinian women

33. At the 9th meeting, on 11 March, the observer for Venezuela,[1] on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China, introduced a draft resolution entitled "The situation of and assistance to Palestinian women" (E/CN.6/2002/L.2).

34. At the 12th meeting, on 15 March, the Commission was advised that the draft resolution contained no programme budget implications.

35. At the same meeting, the Commission approved the draft resolution by a recorded vote of 38 to 1, and recommended it to the Economic and Social Council for adoption (see chap. I, sect. A, draft resolution I). The voting was as follows:[2]

In favour:

Argentina, Azerbaijan, Belgium, Botswana, Brazil, Burkina Faso, Chile, China, Croatia, Cuba, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Denmark, Egypt, Germany, Guatemala, Guinea, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Italy, Japan, Kyrgyzstan, Lithuania, Malawi, Malaysia, Mexico, Mongolia, Netherlands, Pakistan, Republic of Korea, Russian Federation, Senegal, South Africa, Sudan, Tunisia, Turkey, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania.

Against:

United States of America.

36. Statements in explanation of vote after the vote were made by the representatives of the United States of America and the Islamic Republic of Iran.

37. The observer for Israel made a statement after the adoption of the draft resolution.

38. The observer for Palestine also made a statement.

[2] The delegation of Burundi subsequently stated that, had it been present during the vote, it would have voted in favour of the draft resolution.

Women, the girl child and human immunodeficiency virus/acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (HIV/AIDS)

39. At the 9th meeting, on 11 March, the representative of Malawi, on behalf of Angola,[1] Botswana, the Democratic Republic of the Congo,[1] Lesotho,[1] Malawi, Mauritius,[1] Mozambique,[1] Namibia,[1] South Africa, Swaziland,[1] the United Republic of Tanzania, Zambia[1] and Zimbabwe,[1] introduced a draft resolution entitled, "Women, the girl child and human immunodeficiency virus/acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (HIV/AIDS)" (E/CN.6/2002/L.3), which read as follows:

"*The Commission on the Status of Women*,

"*Recognizing* that women play a vital role in the social and economic development of their countries, and therefore profoundly concerned by the fact that out of 40 million people living with human immunodeficiency virus/acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (HIV/AIDS) today, women now represent about half of all people over age fifteen living with HIV and AIDS,

"*Noting with great concern* that the proportion of women becoming infected with HIV is growing in every region, that in sub-Saharan Africa the majority of those living with HIV are women and that, in the younger age brackets (fifteen to twenty-four years of age), girls are at higher risk of HIV infection and more girls than boys are now infected, and welcoming, in this context, the International Partnership against AIDS in Africa,

"*Mindful* that the majority of women and the girl child in most developing countries do not enjoy full social and economic rights, such as education, health care and welfare, and therefore suffer disproportionately from the consequences of the HIV/AIDS epidemic, particularly in the economic and social spheres,

"*Recognizing* that women, who constitute the majority of the poor, are especially vulnerable to HIV infection because of their subordinate status in society, in the household and in communities and because of their restricted access to education, gainful employment and health and information services,

"*Also recognizing* that women, in particular young girls, are physiologically and biologically more vulnerable than men to sexually transmitted diseases, including HIV, and yet receive minimal health care and support when infected,

"*Noting with concern* that approximately 80 per cent of the infected women have been infected through unprotected sex with an infected male partner, and acknowledging, therefore, that men have a shared responsibility towards protecting their own and women's sexual health,

"*Acknowledging* that millions of women do not have access to means that have proved effective in preventing and lowering infection rates, such as male and female condoms, anti-retroviral drugs, relevant preventive education, acceptable counselling and testing services,

"*Noting with appreciation* the efforts of the Joint United Nations Programme on Human Immunodeficiency Virus/Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome (UNAIDS) and its co-sponsoring organizations, the United Nations

Children's Fund, the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Population Fund, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, the World Health Organization, the International Labour Organization and the World Bank, to empower women through capacity development programmes, as well as programmes that provide women with access to development resources and strengthen their networks which offer care and support to women affected by HIV/AIDS,

"1. *Welcomes* the outcome of the Organization of African Unity Special Summit on HIV/AIDS in Abuja, Nigeria, in April 2001, and the Declaration of Commitment on HIV/AIDS: "Global Crisis — Global Action", adopted by the General Assembly at its twenty-sixth special session, in June 2001;

"2. *Reaffirms* the commitment by Governments to the HIV/AIDS goals and objectives contained in the Political Declaration and further actions and initiatives to implement the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, as adopted by the General Assembly at its twenty-third special session entitled 'Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century';

"3. *Also reaffirms* the rights of women and the girl child infected and affected by HIV/AIDS to have access to health, education and social services, including counselling, and to be protected from all forms of discrimination, stigma, abuse and neglect;

"4. *Further reaffirms* the human rights of girls and women to equal access to education, skills training and employment opportunities as a means to reduce their vulnerability to HIV infection;

"5. *Urges* Governments to take all necessary measures to strengthen women's economic independence and to protect and promote their human rights and fundamental freedoms in order to allow them to better protect themselves from HIV infection;

"6. *Emphasizes* that the advancement and empowerment of women is critical to increasing the ability of women and young girls to protect themselves from HIV infection;

"7. *Stresses* that every effort should be made by Governments, relevant agencies, funds and programmes of the United Nations system and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, individually and collectively, to place combating HIV/AIDS as a priority on the development agenda and to implement effective prevention strategies and programmes, especially for the most vulnerable populations, including women, young girls and infants, also taking into account the prevention of mother-to-child transmission of HIV;

"8. *Calls upon* the international community, relevant agencies, funds and programmes of the United Nations system and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to intensify their support of national efforts against HIV/AIDS, particularly in favour of women and young girls, in the worst-hit regions of Africa and where the epidemic is severely setting back national development gains;

"9. *Urges* Governments to take steps to create an environment that promotes compassion and support for people infected with HIV/AIDS, to provide the legal framework that will protect the rights of people living with HIV/AIDS, to enable those who are vulnerable to have access to appropriate voluntary counselling services and to encourage efforts to reduce discrimination and stigmatization;

"10. *Also urges* Governments, with the assistance of relevant agencies, funds and programmes of the United Nations system and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, to create an environment and conditions that will take care of and support children orphaned by AIDS;

"11. *Encourages* Governments to recognize the challenges facing girls and women, particularly older women, who are primary caregivers for people living with HIV/AIDS, and to provide them with the necessary economic and psychosocial support;

"12. *Further urges* Governments, with the assistance of relevant agencies, funds and programmes of the United Nations system, to adopt a long-term, timely, coherent and integrated AIDS prevention policy, with public information and life-skills-based education programmes specifically tailored to the needs of women and girls within their socio-cultural contexts and sensitivities and the specific needs in their life cycle;

"13. *Encourages* Governments and civil society to support women's groups and community organizations in changing harmful traditions and practices affecting the health of women and girls and to take steps to eliminate all forms of violence against women, including rape and sexual coercion, which aggravate the conditions fostering the spread of the epidemic;

"14. *Encourages* accelerated research on vaccine development and intensified additional research on promotion of the female condom, microbicides and other options that offer women more control over the protection of their reproductive and sexual health;

"15. *Requests* Governments to ensure that condoms and treatment for sexually transmitted diseases are available and affordable in places accessible to women while ensuring their privacy;

"16. *Also requests* Governments to provide comprehensive health care for women with HIV, including treatment for opportunistic diseases and reproductive health services;

"17. *Reaffirms* the value of coordination by the Joint United Nations Programme on Human Immunodeficiency Virus/Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome (UNAIDS), and calls upon all entities of the United Nations system to examine their programmes of work in order to incorporate activities to combat HIV/AIDS, especially among women and children;

"18. *Welcomes* the efforts of the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS in promoting sexual and reproductive health education for young people, in particular girls, while encouraging them to delay sexual initiation, and, in this context, urges that greater attention be given to the education of men and boys about their roles and their responsibilities in preventing the

transmission of sexually transmitted diseases, including HIV/AIDS, to their partners;

"19. *Urges* the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS and its co-sponsors to intensify their efforts in assisting Governments in determining the best policies and programmes to prevent women and young girls from becoming infected with HIV/AIDS;

"20. *Requests* the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS and its co-sponsors, bilateral and multilateral donors and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, in their efforts to prevent HIV infection, to give urgent and priority attention to the situation of women and girls in Africa;

"21. *Invites* the relevant entities of the United Nations system, including agencies, funds and programmes, to mainstream gender policies and programmes integrating HIV/AIDS activities."

40. At the same meeting, the representative of Malawi orally revised the draft resolution. The revisions were subsequently issued in document E/CN.6/2002/L.3/Rev.1, which read as follows:

"*The Commission on the Status of Women*,

"*Recalling* General Assembly resolution S-26/2 of 27 June 2001 entitled "Declaration of Commitment on HIV/AIDS", adopted at its twenty-sixth special session, held in New York from 25 to 27 June 2001,

"*Reaffirms* the need to urgently implement the commitments by Governments to the goals and objectives contained in the Declaration of Commitment on HIV/AIDS adopted by the General Assembly,

"*Noting also* the linkage between HIV/AIDS, gender, poverty underdevelopment and environmental degradation and the adverse impact on the lives of women and girls,

"1. *Calls upon* Governments, to intensify efforts to challenge gender stereotypes and attitudes and gender inequalities in relation to HIV/AIDS, encouraging the active participation and involvement of men and boys;

"2. *Requests* Governments, by 2005, to develop, strengthen and accelerate the implementation of national strategies that promote the advancement of women and their full enjoyment of all human rights, promote shared responsibility of men and women to ensure the practice of safe sex and empower women to have control over and decide freely and responsibly on matters related to their sexuality to increase their ability to protect themselves from HIV infection;

"3. *Also requests* Governments, by 2005, to ensure the development and the strengthened and accelerated implementation of national strategies for women's empowerment, the promotion and protection of their full enjoyment of all human rights and reduction of their vulnerability to HIV/AIDS through the elimination of all forms of discrimination, as well as all forms of violence against women and girls, including harmful traditional and customary practices, abuse, rape and other forms of sexual violence, battering and trafficking in women and girls;

"4. *Urges* Governments by 2005, to implement measures to increase the capacity of women and adolescent girls to protect themselves from the risk of HIV infection, principally through the provision of health care and health services, including sexual and reproductive health services, as well as through prevention education programmes that promote gender equality within a culturally and gender-sensitive framework;

"5. *Also urges* Governments, in line with the targets of the twenty-sixth session of the General Assembly, to reduce the proportion of infants infected with HIV by 20 per cent by 2005, and by 50 per cent by 2010, by ensuring that 80 per cent of pregnant women accessing antenatal care have information, counselling and other HIV-prevention services available to them, increasing the availability of, and providing access for HIV-infected women and babies to, effective treatment to reduce mother-to-child transmission of HIV, as well as through effective interventions for HIV-infected women, including voluntary and confidential counselling and testing, access to treatment, especially anti-retroviral therapy and, where appropriate, breast-milk substitutes and the provision of a continuum of care;

"6. *Invites* the Secretary-General to report to the Commission at its forty-seventh session on the implementation of the present resolution."

41. At the 12th meeting, on 15 March, the representative of Malawi introduced revisions to draft resolution E/CN.6/2002/L.3/Rev.1, which were circulated in an informal paper.

42. At the same meeting, Algeria,[1] Australia,[1] Austria,[1] Azerbaijan, Belarus,[1] Belgium, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Canada,[1] Croatia, Cuba, Denmark, the Dominican Republic, Finland,[1] France,[1] Gabon, Germany, Ghana,[1] Greece,[1] Guinea, Haiti,[1] Iceland,[1] the Islamic Republic of Iran, Ireland,[1] Israel,[1] Italy, Japan, Kenya,[1] Kyrgyzstan, Luxembourg,[1] Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco,[1] the Netherlands, New Zealand,[1] Norway,[1] Portugal,[1] the Republic of Korea, Romania,[1] Senegal, Spain,[1] Sudan, Suriname,[1] Sweden,[1] Thailand,[1] Tunisia, Ukraine,[1] the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America joined in sponsoring the revised draft resolution.

43. The Commission was advised that the revised draft resolution contained no programme budget implications.

44. Also at the 12th meeting, the Commission adopted the revised draft resolution, as further revised (see chap. I, sect. C, resolution 46/2).

Situation of women and girls in Afghanistan

45. At the 9th meeting, on 11 March, the representative of the United States of America introduced a draft resolution entitled "Situation of women and girls in Afghanistan" (E/CN.6/2002/L.4), which read as follows:

"*The Economic and Social Council,*

"*Recalling* that Afghanistan is a party to the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, the Convention on the Rights of the Child

and the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War, and that it has signed the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women,

"*Reaffirming* that all States have an obligation to promote and protect human rights and fundamental freedoms and must comply with the obligations they have assumed under the various international instruments to which they are a party,

"*Welcoming* the Agreement on provisional arrangements in Afghanistan pending the re-establishment of permanent government institutions, signed in Bonn on 5 December 2001,

"*Welcoming also* the round table on building women's leadership in Afghanistan, convened by the United Nations Development Fund for Women and the Government of Belgium on 10 and 11 December 2001,

"*Welcoming further* developments in Afghanistan that will allow for all Afghans to enjoy inalienable rights and freedom unfettered by oppression and terror,

"*Welcoming* the commitment of the Afghan Interim Administration to the active participation of Afghan women in political and economic life, to the education of girls as well as boys and to the right of women to work outside the home,

"*Welcoming also* the fact that women hold two seats in the Afghan Interim Administration and are included in the twenty-one-member Special Independent Commission for the Convening of the Emergency Loya Jirga,

"*Welcoming further* the signing by the Chairman of the Afghan Interim Administration of the Declaration of the Essential Rights of Afghan Women,

"*Welcoming* the fact that the United Nations Immediate and Transitional Assistance Programme for the Afghan People 2002 reflects the needs and contributions of women and girls,

"*Expressing* its appreciation for the international community's support of and solidarity with the people of Afghanistan, particularly the women and girls,

"1. *Welcomes* the commitment made by the Afghan Interim Administration to recognize, protect, promote, and act in accordance with all human rights and fundamental freedoms, regardless of gender, ethnicity or religion, in accordance with international human rights instruments;

"2. *Urges* the Afghan Interim Administration to continue to make progress in ensuring:

"(a) The repeal of all legislative and other measures that discriminate against women and girls and impede the realization of all their human rights;

"(b) The effective participation of women in civil, cultural, economic, political and social life throughout the country;

"(c) Respect for the equal right of women to work and their reintegration in employment in all segments of the Afghan society;

"(d) The equal right of women and girls to education without discrimination, the reopening of schools and the admission of women and girls to all levels of education;

"(e) Respect for the right of women and girls to security of person, and that those responsible for physical attacks on women and girls are brought to justice;

"(f) Respect for freedom of movement for women and girls;

"(g) Respect for the effective and equal access of women and girls to the facilities necessary to achieve the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health;

"3. *Welcomes* the establishment of the Ministry of Women's Affairs, and encourages the international community to continue to provide funding and technical assistance so that the Ministry can develop the capacity to act as a catalyst for gender mainstreaming throughout the Government;

"4. *Calls upon* the international community to continue to provide financial and technical assistance to protect women's human rights and support initiatives to end violence against them, as well as to strengthen the capacity of Afghan women to participate effectively in political and economic life and in conflict resolution and peace-building efforts and to increase their economic security;

"5. *Encourages* the continuing efforts of the United Nations, international and non-governmental organizations and donors to ensure that all United Nations-assisted programmes in Afghanistan are formulated and coordinated in such a way as to promote and ensure the participation of women in those programmes, and that women benefit equally with men from such programmes, and to that end, encourages such measures as the establishment of culturally sensitive programmes to sensitize Afghan officials, ministry staff and technical departments concerning international principles of human rights and gender equality;

"6. *Appeals* to all States and to the international community to ensure that all humanitarian and reconstruction assistance to the people of Afghanistan is based on the principle of non-discrimination, integrates a gender perspective and actively attempts to promote the participation of both women and men and to promote peace and respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms;

"7. *Encourages* United Nations agencies to intensify their efforts to employ more women in their programmes in Afghanistan, particularly at the decision-making level, to ensure, inter alia, the functioning of all programmes in order to better address the needs of the female population;

"8. *Stresses* the importance of the Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights on the situation of human rights in Afghanistan giving special attention to the human rights of women and girls and fully incorporating a gender perspective in his work;

"9. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue to review the situation of women and girls in Afghanistan and to submit to the Commission on the

Status of Women at its forty-seventh session a report on progress made in the implementation of the present resolution."

46. At the same meeting, the representative of the United States of America orally revised the draft resolution. The revisions were subsequently issued in document E/CN.6/2002/L.4/Rev.1, which read as follows:

"*The Economic and Social Council*,

"*Guided* by the Charter of the United Nations, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and all other relevant international human rights and international humanitarian law instruments,

"*Guided also* by the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the further actions and initiatives to implement the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action adopted by the General Assembly at its twenty-third special session,

"*Recalling* that Afghanistan is a party to the Convention on the Prevention of the Crime of Genocide, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, the Convention on the Rights of the Child, and the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949 and that it has signed the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women,

"*Reaffirming* that all States have an obligation to promote and protect human rights and fundamental freedoms and must fulfil their international legal obligations under international instruments to which they are a party and under customary international law,

"*Recalling* the importance of the implementation of Security Council resolution 1325 (2000), on women, peace and security, in the Afghan situation,

"*Recalling also* the statement by the President of the Security Council on 31 October 2001, on women, peace and security,

"*Welcoming* the Agreement on provisional arrangements in Afghanistan pending the re-establishment of permanent government institutions, signed in Bonn on 5 December 2001,

"*Welcoming also* the efforts of Afghan women to participate actively in civil society, as evidenced by the Afghan Women's Summit for Democracy, held in Brussels on 4 and 5 December 2001, the celebration of International Women's Day in Afghanistan, the round table on building women's leadership in Afghanistan convened by the United Nations Development Fund for Women and the Government of Belgium, held in Brussels on 10 and 11 December 2001, and the Brussels Action Plan on Afghan women's participation in the reconstruction of Afghanistan, adopted at the round table,

"*Welcoming further* the international commitments expressed at the International Conference on Reconstruction Assistance to Afghanistan, co-chaired by the Government of Japan, the Government of the United States of America, the Government of Saudi Arabia and the European Union, held in Tokyo on 21 and 22 January 2002,

"*Welcoming* the efforts of Afghanistan's neighbouring countries, who have hosted so many Afghan refugees, especially women and children, and have provided humanitarian assistance in many areas such as education, health and other basic services,

"*Welcoming also* developments in Afghanistan that will contribute to the creation of conditions that will allow all Afghans, especially women and girls, to enjoy inalienable rights and freedoms and fully participate in the reconstruction and development of their country,

"*Welcoming further* the commitment of the Afghan Interim Administration to the active participation of Afghan women of all ages in political, economic and social life, to the education of girls as well as boys and to the right of women to work outside the home,

"*Welcoming* the inclusion of women in the Afghan Interim Administration and in the twenty-one-member Special Independent Commission for the Convening of the Emergency Loya Jirga, and stressing the importance of promoting opportunities for the full and effective participation of women in all decision-making processes regarding the future of Afghanistan,

"*Welcoming also* the signing of the Declaration of the Essential Rights of Afghan Women, by the Chairman of the Afghan Interim Administration,

"*Welcoming further* the fact that the United Nations Immediate and Transitional Assistance Programme for the Afghan People 2002 reflects the needs of, and importance of the role to be taken by, women and girls in the process of peace-building, reconstruction and development,

"*Expressing its appreciation* for the international community's support of and solidarity with the people of Afghanistan, particularly its women and girls, during the Taliban rule and since the creation of the Afghan Interim Administration,

"*Encouraging* the members of the international community, including non-governmental organizations, to continue efforts to draw attention to the situation of Afghan women and girls and to promote the immediate restoration of their ability to enjoy their human rights,

"*Recognizing* that special attention must be directed at the promotion and protection of the human rights and fundamental freedoms of women and girls in Afghanistan, including the right to freedom from discrimination,

"*Recognizing also* that women's effective participation in civil, cultural, economic, political and social life should be promoted and protected throughout Afghanistan, including respect for the right of women to work, their right to education, to security of person, to freedom of movement and association, to freedom of opinion and expression and to equal access to facilities necessary to attain the highest standard of physical and mental health,

"*Recognizing further* that Afghan women are primary stakeholders and agents of change, who must have the opportunity to identify their own needs and priorities in all sectors of society in order to become full partners in the rebuilding of their society,

"*Recognizing* the need for the international assistance community to ensure the mainstreaming of the gender perspective in all its activities and that it proceed in a sensitive way giving Afghan women a stake in the process,

"*Recognizing* that Afghan non-governmental organizations, including women's organizations, have played a valuable role in the provision of basic services and in the delivery of humanitarian assistance and that they should continue to be important partners in the future recovery and reconstruction process,

"*Mindful* of the continued fragile humanitarian situation in Afghanistan and the importance of ensuring continued humanitarian assistance and protection for vulnerable Afghan civilians,

"*Bearing in mind* that a safe environment, free from violence, discrimination and abuse for all Afghans is a precondition for a viable and sustainable recovery and reconstruction process,

"1. *Welcomes* the commitments made by the Afghan Interim Administration to recognize, protect, promote, and act in accordance with all human rights and fundamental freedoms, in accordance with international human rights instruments, and to respect international humanitarian law;

"2. *Welcomes with appreciation* the report of the Secretary-General to the Commission on the Status of Women on the situation of women and girls in Afghanistan;

"3. *Welcomes* the establishment of the Ministry of Women's Affairs by the Afghan Interim Administration, and encourages the international community to provide funding and technical assistance so that the Ministry can develop the capacity to act as a catalyst for gender mainstreaming throughout the Government, while also encouraging the Interim Administration to provide the necessary assistance to enable the Ministry to function effectively;

"4. *Urges* the Afghan Interim Administration to continue to take measures towards ensuring:

"(a) The repeal of all legislative and other measures that discriminate against women and girls and impede the realization of their human rights and fundamental freedoms;

"(b) The effective participation of women of all ages in civil, cultural, economic, political and social life throughout the country;

"(c) The equal right of women and girls to education without discrimination, the reopening of schools and the admission of women and girls to all levels of education;

"(d) The equal right of women to work and their reintegration in employment in all segments and at all levels of the Afghan society;

"(e) The right of women and girls to physical security and for bringing to justice those responsible for attacks on women and girls;

"(f) Freedom of movement for women and girls;

"(g) The effective and equal access of women and girls to the facilities necessary to achieve the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health;

"(h) Full support for the participation of women in the Special Independent Commission for the convening of the Emergency Loya Jirga and in the Loya Jirga itself;

"(i) That all ministries provide women with an equal opportunity for employment and develop the capacity to mainstream a gender perspective in their programmes;

"(j) That women are well represented as members of the Judicial Commission, the Civil Service Commission and the Human Rights Commission and that a gender perspective is taken into consideration when developing the mandates of those commissions;

"(k) That the work of the Afghanistan Human Rights Commission is underpinned by international human rights standards and integrates women's rights in its mandate;

"(l) That all feasible measures are taken to provide a safe environment free from violence to facilitate the voluntary return of refugees and displaced persons;

"(m) A study and formulation of appropriate remedial measures are undertaken concerning the impact on women and girls of the existing legal system, including with regard to family law, divorce, property and inheritance rights;

"(n) Consideration of ratification of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and of signing and ratifying its Optional Protocol;

"5. *Encourages* the continuing efforts of the United Nations and its agencies, guided by Security Council resolution 1325 (2000) on women, peace and security, to:

"(a) Fully support the Afghan Interim Administration regarding the participation of women;

"(b) Provide support to ministries to help develop their capacity to mainstream a gender perspective into their programmes;

"(c) Support capacity-building for Afghan women to enable them to participate fully in all sectors;

"(d) Provide technical assistance so that the judicial system has the capacity to adhere to international standards of human rights;

"(e) Develop and implement a programme of human rights education to promote respect for and understanding of human rights, including the human rights of women;

"6. *Invites* the United Nations system, international and non-governmental organizations, multilateral and bilateral donors, to:

"(a) Ensure a human rights-based approach and gender-mainstreaming in all programmes and operations, based on the principles of non-discrimination and equality between women and men, and ensure that women benefit equally with men from such programmes in all sectors;

"(b) Develop comprehensive and coherent gender policy and programmes in Afghanistan and strengthen inter-agency mechanisms for coordination and cooperation;

"(c) Ensure the participation of Afghan women in all stages of programming, including planning, implementation and monitoring;

"(d) Promote employment of Afghan women, including in management positions, and support women's freedom of movement and security in their employment with the assistance community;

"(e) Support the elements of civil society active in the field of human rights, in particular women's rights;

"(f) Encourage the involvement of Afghan women in all phases of reconstruction;

"7. *Calls upon* the international community to continue to provide financial and technical assistance, including human rights education, to protect the human rights of women and girls and to support initiatives to end violence against them and to increase their economic security, as well as to strengthen the capacity of Afghan women to fully and effectively participate in conflict resolution and peace-building efforts and in civil, political, economic, cultural and social life;

"8. *Stresses* the importance of the Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights on the situation of human rights in Afghanistan giving special attention to the human rights of women and girls and fully incorporating a gender perspective in his work, and encourages cooperation between the other Special Rapporteurs of the Commission in this regard;

"9. *Calls upon* the Afghan Interim Administration to take all feasible measures to ensure the safety and security of all humanitarian workers in Afghanistan, whether employed by Governments, international organizations, non-governmental organizations or the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, so that they can, regardless of gender, carry out their work unhindered;

"10. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue to review the situation of women and girls in Afghanistan and to submit to the Commission on the Status of Women at its forty-seventh session a report of progress made in the implementation of the present resolution."

47. At the 14th meeting, on 15 March, the representative of the United States of America made a statement with regard to the draft resolution.

48. At the 16th meeting, on 25 March, the Commission had before it a second revision of the draft resolution (E/CN.6/2002/L.4/Rev.2), which the representative of the United States of America orally revised.

49. Argentina, Australia,[1] Austria,[1] Bangladesh,[1] Belgium, Benin, Brazil,[1] Canada,[1] Chile, Croatia, the Czech Republic,[1] Denmark, Finland,[1] France,[1] Georgia,[1] Germany, Greece,[1] Guatemala, Guyana,[1] Iceland,[1] Ireland,[1] Israel,[1] Italy, Japan, Liechtenstein,[1] Luxembourg,[1] Mexico, Mongolia, the Netherlands, New Zealand,[1] Norway,[1] Peru, the Philippines,[1] Portugal,[1] the Republic of Korea, Senegal, Slovenia,[1] Spain,[1] Sweden,[1] Switzerland,[1] Thailand,[1] Tunisia, Turkey, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and Venezuela[1] joined in sponsoring the revised draft resolution, as orally revised.

50. At the same meeting, the Commission was advised that the revised draft resolution contained no programme budget implications.

51. Also at the same meeting, the Commission recommended the revised draft resolution, as orally revised, to the Economic and Social Council for adoption (see chap. I, sect. A, draft resolution II).

52. After the draft resolution was adopted, the observer for Spain made a statement on behalf of the European Union.

Mainstreaming a gender perspective into all policies and programmes in the United Nations system

53. At the 9th meeting, on 11 March, the representative of Denmark, on behalf of Argentina, Australia,[1] Belgium, Canada,[1] Chile, Croatia, the Czech Republic,[1] Denmark, Finland, France,[1] Germany, Greece,[1] Guyana,[1] Italy, Liechtenstein,[1] the Netherlands, New Zealand,[1] Nigeria,[1] Norway,[1] Portugal,[1] Senegal, Spain,[1] Sweden,[1] Turkey and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, introduced a draft resolution entitled "Mainstreaming a gender perspective into all policies and programmes in the United Nations system" (E/CN.6/2002/L.5). Subsequently, Angola,[1] Austria,[1] Azerbaijan, Bangladesh,[1] Botswana, Brazil, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cyprus,[1] the Dominican Republic, Gabon, Ghana,[1] Guatemala, Guinea, Iceland,[1] India,[1] Indonesia, Ireland,[1] Israel,[1] Jamaica,[1] Japan, Kenya,[1] Lithuania, Luxembourg,[1] Malawi, Malaysia, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco,[1] Namibia,[1] the Republic of Korea, Romania,[1] South Africa, Suriname,[1] Switzerland,[1] Thailand,[1] Tunisia, Ukraine,[1] the United Republic of Tanzania, the United States of America and Venezuela[1] joined in sponsoring the draft resolution.

54. At the 12th meeting, on 15 March, the Commission was advised that the draft resolution contained no programme budget implications.

55. At the same meeting, the Commission adopted the draft resolution (see chap. I, sect. C, resolution 46/3).

Draft agreed conclusions on eradicating poverty, including through the empowerment of women throughout their life cycle in a globalizing world (agenda item 3 (c) (i))

56. At the 14th meeting, on 15 March, the Vice-Chairperson of the Commission, Fernando Estellita Lins de Salvo Coimbra (Brazil), reported on the outcome of consultations held on agenda item 3 (c) (i) and introduced draft agreed conclusions on the sub-item, which were contained in an informal paper.

57. At the same meeting, the Commission adopted the draft agreed conclusions submitted by the Vice-Chairperson, Mr. Coimbra, and requested their endorsement

by the Economic and Social Council (see chap. I, sect. A, draft resolution III, agreed conclusions A).

58. The Commission also agreed to communicate the draft agreed conclusions to the International Conference on Financing for Development in Monterrey, Mexico.

Draft agreed conclusions on environmental management and the mitigation of natural disasters (agenda item 3 (c) (ii))

59. At the 14th meeting, on 15 March, the Vice-Chairperson of the Commission, Ms. Kyung-wha Kang (Republic of Korea), reported on the outcome of consultations held on agenda item 3 (c) (ii) and introduced draft agreed conclusions on the sub-item, which were contained in an informal paper.

60. At the same meeting, the Commission adopted the draft agreed conclusions submitted by the Vice-Chairperson, Ms. Kang, and requested their endorsement by the Economic and Social Council (see chap. I, sect. A, draft resolution III, agreed conclusions B).

61. The Commission also agreed to communicate the draft agreed conclusions to the International Conference on Financing for Development in Monterrey, Mexico, and to the World Summit on Sustainable Development in Johannesburg, South Africa.

Documents considered by the Commission on the Status of Women under agenda item 3

62. At its 16th meeting, on 25 March, on the proposal of the Chairperson, the Commission decided to take note of the following documents under agenda item 3 (see chap. I, sect. C, decision 46/103):

(a) Report of the Secretary-General on release of women and children taken hostage, including those subsequently imprisoned, in armed conflicts (E/CN.6/2002/4);

(b) Report of the Secretary-General on the joint work plan of the Office of the Special Adviser on Gender Issues and Advancement of Women, the Division for the Advancement of Women and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (E/CN.6/2002/6);

(c) Report of the Secretary-General on improvement of the status of women in the United Nations system (E/CN.6/2002/7);

(d) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the United Nations Development Fund for Women on the activities of the Fund to eliminate violence against women (E/CN.6/2002/8);

(e) Report of the Secretary-General on thematic issues before the Commission on the Status of Women (E/CN.6/2002/9).

Chapter IV
Communications concerning the status of women

1. The Commission considered agenda item 4 at its 7th, 10th (closed), 11th (closed), 13th (closed), 14th, 15th (closed) and 16th meetings on 7, 13, 14, 15 and 25 March 2002. It had before it the report of the Secretary-General assessing the implications of the reforms of mechanisms in the human rights area (1503 procedure) for communications concerning the status of women (E/CN.6/2002/12) and a note by the Secretary-General transmitting the confidential list of communications concerning the status of women (E/CN.6/2002/S.W. Communications List No. 36).

2. The Commission established a working group to consider, under agenda item 4, communications concerning the status of women, pursuant to Economic and Social Council resolution 1983/27. The following five members, nominated by their regional groups, were appointed to the working group:

Mostafa Alaei (Islamic Republic of Iran)
Paul J. A. M. Peters (Netherlands)
Audra Plepytė (Lithuania)
Connie Taracena Secaira (Guatemala)
Séraphine Toé (Burkina Faso)

3. At its 7th meeting, on 7 March, the Commission held a discussion on the report of the Secretary-General contained in document E/CN.6/2002/12 and heard an introductory statement by the Director of the Division for the Advancement of Women.

4. At the same meeting, statements were made by the representatives of the Islamic Republic of Iran, China, Cuba, Malaysia, Egypt, Argentina, the United States of America, Indonesia, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Turkey, Tunisia, Pakistan and the Russian Federation and the observers for the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Canada, India, the Syrian Arab Republic, Spain (on behalf of the European Union), Australia, Nigeria, Iraq and Algeria.

5. The Chief of the Human Resources Unit of the Division for the Advancement of Women responded to questions raised during the discussion.

Action taken by the Commission

Communications concerning the status of women: communications procedure

6. At the 14th meeting, on 15 March, the Vice-Chairperson of the Commission, Birgit Stevens (Belgium) introduced a draft decision, which was circulated in an informal paper and submitted by her on the basis of informal consultations held on agenda item 4.

7. At the same meeting, the Commission recommended the adoption of the draft decision (for the text, see chap. I, sect. B, draft decision II).

8. After the adoption of the draft decision, the observer for India made a statement.

Report of the Working Group on Communications on the Status of Women

9. At its 10th, 11th, 13th, and 15th meetings (closed meetings), on 13, 14, 15 and 25 March, the Commission considered the report of the Working Group on Communications on the Status of Women (E/CN.6/2002/CRP.6).

10. At the 15th meeting, on 25 March, the Commission decided to take note of the report of the Working Group, as amended during the discussion, and agreed to include it in the report of the Commission (for the text of the decision, see chap. I, sect. C, decision 46/102). The Commission also agreed to include in its report statements of reservation made by delegations during the discussion of and action on the decision (see annex III). The report of the Working Group follows:

Report of the Working Group on Communications on the Status of Women

1. The Working Group on Communications on the Status of Women was guided in its deliberations by the mandate given by the Economic and Social Council in its resolution 76 (V), as amended by the Council in its resolutions 304 I (XI), 1983/27 and 1992/19.

2. The Working Group considered the list of confidential communications (E/CN.6/2002/SW/COMM.LIST/36). There was no list of non-confidential communications concerning the status of women since no such communications had been received by the Secretary-General of the United Nations.

3. The Working Group considered the six confidential communications received directly by the Division for the Advancement of Women of the United Nations Secretariat and the 17 confidential communications received by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights concerning the status of women. It also took note of the fact that no confidential communications concerning the status of women had been received by other United Nations bodies or the specialized agencies.

4. The Working Group noted the grave violations of women's human rights, including civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights, and the discrimination against women. It also noted the violence against women and girls and their exclusion from full enjoyment of all human rights and fundamental freedoms. The Working Group also noted cases of the failure of authorities to take appropriate action regarding violations of women's human rights.

5. The Working Group noted discrimination against women, including through restrictions on their freedom of movement, stemming from law and custom. It noted that in some cases foreign domestic workers had been arbitrarily detained, denied access to defence lawyers, tortured and sexually abused in detention by police officers, subjected to cursory trials and denied protection and redress from the authorities for rape, physical and verbal abuse and beatings by their employers.

6. The Working Group noted a great number of persons, including women and children, who have been compelled to carry out forced labour for weeks

and months at a time, in unspeakable conditions for health and safety, resulting in many deaths.

7. The Working Group noted the inhumane treatment, sexual harassment and torture of women in custody, including indigenous women. It also noted violations of the right to freedom of expression, wrongful arrests and gender specific discriminatory practices, such as virginity testing, rape and sexual assault at work, and employment-related fines and penalties tied to family planning.

8. The Working Group noted the poor conditions of detention and the forcible repatriation of refugees, including pregnant women and nursing mothers, of a particular ethnic group and the rape of a number of the women concerned by soldiers. It also noted that a number of those persons, including women, died of suffocation during their journey by cargo train to their neighbouring country of origin.

9. The Working Group noted the ongoing harassment, including acts of violence, intimidation and death threats, of women human rights defenders, women journalists and women members of the political opposition, by members of the police. The Working Group also noted the violation of the basic human rights of human rights defenders, including women, by, for instance, the misuse of forcible psychiatric treatment, the intimidation of lawyers representing detainees and family members and the use of charges of unlawful assembly to prevent the persons concerned from carrying out their legitimate activities.

10. The Working Group noted the large number of communications indicating that, in one case, a harsh system of rule had revoked nearly all of the rights and freedoms of women guaranteed to all persons under the Charter of the United Nations and various human rights instruments. Flagrant violations included denial of their civil and political rights, their economic, social and cultural rights, including their freedom of movement, their right to work and their access to education, employment and health care. The Working Group noted that women had been beaten, imprisoned and even killed for disobeying decrees issued under the system of rule. The Working Group welcomed the recent changes governing the situation of women in that case. It identified impunity of perpetrators of violations of the rights of women as a continuing concern.

Report considered by the Commission on the Status of Women under agenda item 4

11. At its 16th meeting, on 25 March, on the proposal of the Chairperson, the Commission decided to take note of the report of the Secretary-General assessing the implications of the reforms of mechanisms in the human rights area (1503 procedure) for communications concerning the status of women (E/CN.6/2002/12) (for the text, see chap. I, sect. C, decision 46/103).

Chapter V

Follow-up to Economic and Social Council resolutions and decisions

1. The Commission considered agenda item 5 at its 8th and 16th meetings, on 7 and 25 March 2002. It had before it a note by the Secretariat on follow-up to Economic and Social Council resolutions and decisions (E/CN.6/2002/11) and a note by the Secretariat on the contribution of human resources development, including in the areas of health and education, to the process of development (E/CN.6/2002/CRP.3).

2. At its 8th meeting, on 7 March, the Commission held a discussion on the item and heard an introductory statement by the Director of the Division for the Advancement of Women.

3. At the same meeting, statements were made by the Director of the Population Division and the representative of the Division for Sustainable Development (on behalf of the Director of the Division), both of whom also responded to questions raised by the representative of the Netherlands and the observer for Iraq.

4. The representative of Cuba made a statement regarding the report of the Secretary-General on the item (see E/CN.6/2002/11).

5. The observer for Rwanda also made a statement.

Action taken by the Commission

6. At its 16th meeting, on 25 March, the Commission authorized the Chairperson to draw the attention of the President of the Economic and Social Council to the note by the Secretariat on the contribution of human resources development, including in the areas of health and education, to the process of development (document E/CN.6/2002/CRP.3) for the information of the Council's high-level segment of 2002.

Chapter VI

Provisional agenda for the forty-seventh session of the Commission

1. The Commission considered item 6 of its agenda at its 14th meeting, on 15 March 2002. It had before it a note by the Secretariat containing the draft provisional agenda for the forty-seventh session of the Commission (E/CN.6/2002/L.9), which was introduced by the Director of the Division for the Advancement of Women.

2. At the same meeting, the Commission recommended the draft provisional agenda for its forty-seventh session for adoption by the Economic and Social Council (see chap. I, sect. B, draft decision III).

Chapter VII

Adoption of the report of the Commission on its forty-sixth session

1. At the 16th meeting, on 25 March 2002, the Chairperson introduced the draft report of the Commission on its forty-sixth session (E/CN.6/2002/L.7).

2. At the same meeting, the representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran raised a question, to which the Chairperson responded.

3. The Commission then adopted the draft report and entrusted the Bureau with its completion.

Chapter VIII
Organization of the session

A. Opening and duration of the session

1. The Commission on the Status of Women held its forty-sixth session at United Nations Headquarters from 4 to 15 and 25 March 2002. The Commission held 16 meetings (1st to 16th).

2. The session was opened by the Chairperson of the forty-fifth session of the Commission, Dubravka Šimonović (Croatia), who also made a statement.

3. At the 1st meeting, on 4 March, the President of the Economic and Social Council addressed the Commission. At the same meeting, the Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs made an introductory statement.

B. Attendance

4. The session was attended by representatives of 44 States members of the Commission. Observers for other States Members of the United Nations and for non-member States, representatives of organizations of the United Nations system and observers for intergovernmental, non-governmental and other organizations also attended. A list of participants is contained in annex V to the present report.

C. Election of officers

5. At its 1st and 16th meetings, on 4 and 25 March 2002, the Commission elected the following officers by acclamation:

Chairperson:
Othman Jerandi (Tunisia)

Vice-Chairpersons:
Fernando Estellita Lins de Salvo Coimbra (Brazil)
Lala Ibrahimova (Azerbaijan)
Kyung-wha Kang (Republic of Korea)
Birgit Stevens (Belgium)

6. At its 16th meeting, on 25 March, the Commission designated Lala Ibrahimova (Azerbaijan) as Vice-Chairperson with rapporteurial responsibilities.

D. Agenda and organization of work

7. At its 1st meeting, on 4 March, the Commission adopted its provisional agenda and approved its organization of work as contained in document E/CN.6/2002/1. The agenda read as follows:

1. Election of officers.
2. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters.

3. Follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women and to the special session of the General Assembly entitled "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century":

   (a) Review of gender mainstreaming in entities of the United Nations system;

   (b) Emerging issues, trends and new approaches to issues affecting the situation of women or equality between women and men;

   (c) Implementation of strategic objectives and action in the critical areas of concern and further actions and initiatives:

      (i) Eradicating poverty, including through the empowerment of women throughout their life cycle in a globalizing world;

      (ii) Environmental management and mitigation of natural disasters: a gender perspective.

4. Communications concerning the status of women.

5. Follow-up to Economic and Social Council resolutions and decisions.

6. Provisional agenda for the forty-seventh session of the Commission.

7. Adoption of the report of the Commission on its forty-sixth session.

E. Appointment of the members of the Working Group on Communications on the Status of Women

8. Pursuant to Economic and Social Council resolution 1983/27, the Commission established a Working Group on Communications on the Status of Women. The following five members, nominated by their regional groups, were appointed: Mostafa Alaei (Islamic Republic of Iran), Paul J. A. M. Peters (Netherlands), Audra Plepytė (Lithuania), Connie Taracena Secaira (Guatemala) and Séraphine Toé (Burkina Faso). The working group held three meetings.

Annex I

Summary submitted by the moderator of the panel discussion on eradicating poverty, including through the empowerment of women throughout their life cycle in a globalizing world (Fernando Estellita Lins de Salvo Coimbra) (agenda item 3 (c) (i))

1. At its 5th meeting, on 6 March 2002, the Commission on the Status of Women held a panel discussion followed by a dialogue on eradicating poverty, including through the empowerment of women throughout their life cycle in a globalizing world, one of the thematic issues of the Commission's forty-sixth session. The panellists were Savitri Bisnath (Trinidad and Tobago), expert on global governance, at the World Trade Organization, and on the macro effects of the General Agreement on Trade in Services; Gaudence Rwamaheke (Burundi), General Director of the Ministry of Social Action and the Advancement of Women; and Jan Vandemoortele (Belgium), Principal Adviser and Group Leader, Socio-Economic Development Group, United Nations Development Programme. The panel was moderated by Fernando Estellita Lins de Salvo Coimbra (Brazil).

2. Participants discussed the challenge of poverty eradication within the present context of globalization. It was recognized that a significant increase in international cooperation was essential for the implementation of the Millennium Declaration and its development goals. The goal of halving, by 2015, the number of persons living in extreme poverty, in particular, had to be pursued urgently. Achievement of that goal required reduction in women's poverty. Gender equality and the empowerment of women were effective means for poverty eradication, as had been highlighted in the Millennium Declaration.

3. Participants noted that globalization created both challenges and opportunities. While some countries and regions were benefiting from globalization through integration and economic growth, many others had become further marginalized, with deepening disparities and increased levels of poverty among and within countries. It was stated that the present phase of globalization was characterized by the use of economic liberalization and privatization as the preferred policy instruments, aiming at open markets, increased trade and increased competition between sectors and countries. It was noted however that those strategies and actions should not be considered a panacea and that market forces should be counterbalanced by social policies aimed at promoting gender equality and the empowerment of women.

4. The differential impact of globalization on women and men was pointed out and speakers identified both opportunities and challenges with regard to reducing women's poverty and enhancing their empowerment. Economic restructuring and adjustment, and reduction of social expenditures affected women more and differently than men. Speakers noted the absence of convincing evidence showing that economic growth and openness systematically reduced poverty or improved the quality of life for the vast majority of women and men, especially in developing countries. Trade policies produced different outcomes for women and men and gender-based inequalities affected trade policy outcomes. As a consequence, it was suggested that gender analysis should become an essential component of trade policy formulation.

5. Participants emphasized that political will, while very important, was in itself insufficient to achieve gender equality and the empowerment of women. Other factors, such as policy frameworks, institutional mechanisms, including for evaluation and monitoring, and sufficient resources were also necessary. The importance of good governance, sound government policies and the rule of law in the promotion of gender equality were also highlighted.

6. Many participants stressed the need for concrete actions and a comprehensive and integrated approach with innovative solutions to follow up on the commitments made on poverty reduction and the empowerment of women.

7. In responding to the challenges of poverty eradication, the role of women as actors and agents of change was highlighted. Some participants noted that poverty was particularly concentrated among older women and the inter-generational transfer of poverty increased when they had to assume responsibility as heads of households. The particular vulnerability of

poor rural women, who could not take advantage of the trade-related opportunities of globalization, was an issue raised. Their lack of mobility was a factor that also had to be addressed.

8. Participants were concerned about the insufficient integration of macroeconomic goals and policies with social goals and policies and argued that the efficacy of macroeconomic policies did not hinge solely on economic factors, but also on specific social, political and infrastructural factors. Continuation of their present separation could thus reinforce and perpetuate existing inequalities between women and men and cause failure in achieving poverty reduction and the empowerment of women. While some progress had been made, further efforts were necessary at both the global and national levels to integrate social development objectives into macroeconomic policies in order to meet the goals of the Millennium Declaration. To that end, coordination between the economic, finance and social sectors should be promoted.

9. It was suggested that gender equality, like poverty eradication, was to be seen in the context of the struggle to fulfil all human rights and fundamental freedoms. It was therefore particularly important to put in place accountability mechanisms so as to ensure progress in achieving agreed-upon goals nationally and internationally. Participants identified a range of actors that were called upon to implement, and should be accountable for, policies and actions towards the empowerment of women and poverty eradication, including Governments, the private sector, the United Nations system, international financial institutions and civil society. Most importantly, women themselves, and women's non-governmental organizations were identified as catalysts for their own empowerment. Networks and coalitions of women's groups working across borders should be strengthened, as they provided opportunities for women to share experiences, address common problems and learn from positive examples. Efforts were necessary to ensure that a broader range of actors, for example, ministries of finance, take responsibility for integrating gender perspectives in sectoral policies and programmes and especially in national poverty eradication strategies. Emphasis was also placed on the role of men in the empowerment of women.

10. Participants underscored the importance of solidarity both within countries and internationally in order to eradicate poverty and achieve human development. Speakers referred to the proposal of establishing a world solidarity fund for poverty eradication and the promotion of human and social development. The suggestion was also made to tap the worldwide movement of women's solidarity for reviewing progress in the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action.

11. Speakers recalled that equality between women and men was a fundamental human right and a means for fostering human development. The empowerment of women required the promotion and protection of women's human rights throughout their life cycle. Poverty eradication policies should thus be undertaken within a human rights framework, rather than strictly taking a social welfare approach. The Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women was a very good tool for the eradication of poverty among women, especially with regard to education, health, women's participation in decision-making and through temporary special measures, as called for in article 4, paragraph 1, of the Convention. Speakers identified violence against women as an obstacle to poverty eradication and called for positive action to overcome it. The importance of combating multiple discrimination, particularly gender and racial discrimination, was also identified as a major issue.

12. The education of girls and women was a key entry point for poverty eradication and women's empowerment. Concern was expressed that, notwithstanding the recognition of the benefits that resulted from investment in girls' and adolescents' education, insufficient progress was being made in increasing enrolment rates and literacy. Data and experience showed that investment in the education of girls and adolescents had one of the highest returns among investments in development. Educated women were also less vulnerable to diseases, including HIV/AIDS. Job training for women, in particular in non-traditional sectors, had poverty-reduction and empowerment effects. Women's participation in decision-making was also highlighted as an aspect of empowerment.

13. Participants emphasized the role of employment and women's access to and control over resources for poverty eradication and empowerment. In that regard, emphasis was placed on the availability of credit, land reform and women's inheritance rights to enable them to become true economic actors. While microcredit was a good tool to support women in poverty, its

effectiveness varied from context to context. Some speakers favoured a more critical and differentiated approach to microcredit, as it could also lead to indebtedness and the even greater poverty of women. It was noted that, by itself, microcredit was insufficient and had to be accompanied by other measures, such as training. Mainstream financial services for women also had to be enhanced. Social protection systems should be extended to cover economic sectors dominated by women, such as the informal economy and casual and flexible forms of work. Women workers' rights, especially in export processing zones, had to be protected.

14. Insufficient statistical data and lack of appropriate indicators made it difficult to measure poverty among women, assess progress in the empowerment and advancement of women and ensure accountability. Many participants called for the development of indicators, in particular impact and outcome indicators, as well as for the increased collection of sex-disaggregated data, to improve the monitoring of and accountability for the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action and the goals contained in the Millennium Declaration. Research institutions had an important role in the development of qualitative and quantitative measurement tools. Participants discussed the danger of "misplaced concreteness", inherent in the predominant use of aggregates and average statistics, such as gross domestic product, average household income and the rate of economic growth. Those average statistics and indicators tended to hide important disparities and realities, but were commonly used for policy-making. Careful gender analysis of particular situations could avoid misleading or unwarranted conclusions and indicate appropriate policy actions and programme interventions.

15. Tools for gender analysis and for increased accountability also needed to be improved. Gender budgeting was considered to be an important instrument for monitoring the distribution of resources and for increasing accountability for commitments made. Financial resources had to be mobilized to accelerate the implementation of the commitments of Beijing. In that respect, speakers called for an increase in official development assistant. It was also suggested that a larger share of official development assistance as well as of national budgets should be invested in social areas, such as education and health. The forthcoming International Conference on Financing for Development was an opportunity to address that matter.

16. Participants stressed that external debt reduction or cancellation was necessary to free resources for poverty eradication programmes in low- and medium-income countries. Opportunities should be sought to make the Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers more gender-sensitive.

Annex II

Summary submitted by the moderator of the panel discussion on environmental management and mitigation of natural disasters: a gender perspective (Kyung-wha Kang) (agenda item 3 (c) (ii))

1. At its sixth meeting, on 6 March 2002, the Commission held a panel discussion, followed by a dialogue, on the theme "Environmental management and mitigation of natural disasters: a gender perspective", one of the thematic issues before the Commission. The panellists were Sálvano Briceño (Venezuela), Director of the United Nations inter-agency secretariat of the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction; J. Marie Yolene V. Surena (Haiti), Director, Civil Protection Directorate, Ministry of the Interior; Elaine Enarson (United States of America), scholar and founding member of the Gender and Disaster Network; and Idiatou Camara (Guinea), National Director of the Environment. The panel was moderated by Kyung-wha Kang (Republic of Korea).

2. Participants stated that in recent years natural hazards, such as earthquakes, landslides, drought, floods, storms and tropical cyclones, wildland fires and volcanic eruptions, had caused major loss of human lives and livelihoods, destruction of economic and social infrastructure and environmental damage. Both small- and medium-scale disasters had increased substantially, with climate change, environmental mismanagement and degradation, unsustainable exploitation of natural resources, unplanned urbanization and population growth considered to be among the major causes of increased risk and vulnerability to natural disasters.

3. It was noted that the impact and consequences of natural disasters could be devastating unless appropriate measures are taken. More than 100,000 lives were lost in 1999, and by 2050 approximately $US 300 billion will be required annually in order to address the problems associated with natural disasters. Rural areas are especially affected due to fragile economies and survival strategies based on agriculture, forestry and fisheries. Furthermore, people living in rural areas frequently experience loss of livestock and land, which has an impact on their livelihoods, causing increased rural-to-urban migration. Participants stressed that losses resulting from natural disasters have slowed and even reversed the development of some regions, especially in the least developed countries. The ratio of economic loss in relation to gross national product is far higher in the developing than in developed countries. Moreover, in developing countries the emphasis on disaster response has often diverted attention and funds that would normally be targeted for development activities.

4. Participants emphasized that, although natural hazards could not be prevented, their impact and consequences could be mitigated by addressing and combating, from a gender perspective, their root causes, including social, political, economic and cultural vulnerabilities. Stressing the need to look at disasters "through women's eyes", participants noted that the gendered division of labour, sexual and reproductive health, women's longevity, household and economic structures and gender inequalities put women at greater risk than men in situations of disasters. Women's vulnerabilities are accentuated during and after a natural disaster, with discriminatory behaviour, including violence against women, becoming more visible in the period following a natural disaster. The vulnerability of female-headed households was also highlighted.

5. Although women's social, economic and political position in many societies make them more vulnerable to natural hazards, participants stressed that women should be perceived not merely as helpless victims but also as important agents for change. Women play crucial roles at critical junctures, from risk assessment and hazard mitigation to emergency preparedness, disaster response and post-disaster reconstruction. After disasters, they are often key players in the rebuilding of communities, the promotion of safety and ensuring normality in everyday life. Women's capacity to reduce and manage risk should be strengthened as one of the first steps in building more disaster-resilient communities. Women should also be empowered so that they can be involved in all phases of disasters, from preparedness and early warning through mitigation and recovery.

6. A human rights approach framed the debate, with participants suggesting that in the aftermath of a

disaster, a window of opportunity for social change frequently appears, during which new legislation, policies and programmes aimed at promoting gender equality, women's empowerment and more equitable and sustainable living conditions can be formulated and applied. Opportunities to challenge fundamental inequalities in gender relations frequently present themselves and should be seized. Legislation to protect and promote women's human rights, including with regard to natural resources, such as land and water, participation in the paid labour market and in political and public life, and access to education and training can all be introduced or strengthened. International human rights treaties, including the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, can also provide the framework for the development of disaster planning and response.

7. Participants stressed the need to instil a culture of prevention, safety and disaster preparedness in communities in order to reduce and mitigate the impact of natural disasters. To increase preparedness, risk maps, including gender-based hazard maps, based on the assessment of the risks and vulnerabilities, should be created. Early warning systems and urban-planning-monitoring based on detailed, accurate and current information on hazards and vulnerabilities directed at minimizing exposure to vulnerabilities are also considered to be important for ensuring preparedness.

8. High-quality studies and statistics disaggregated by sex and age that take into consideration different social relations, roles and responsibilities in disaster management, development and environmental management and risk reduction were considered to be essential tools in the assessment of vulnerabilities and the mitigation of the impact of natural disasters. In order to promote women's role in environmental management and disaster mitigation more effectively, the development of specific programmes to encourage and support multidisciplinary and comparative research and disaggregated data analysis is considered essential. Participants also stressed the need to compile and distribute information related to case studies on good practices and lessons learned, as well as information on successful laws, policies and programmes being implemented in various countries in the area of environmental management and natural disasters. These should be made widely available in an accessible form and language.

9. The link between environmental degradation and poverty, especially that of women, was underlined. Participants stated that poverty limits the knowledge and technical ability to address problems and forces people to rely on non-renewable resources. The need to address the issue of poverty by implementing United Nations Millennium Declaration goals was highlighted, with participants emphasizing the importance of the development of alternative technologies in order to address climate change and reverse the damage that exacerbates natural hazards and to promote the use of renewable resources, such as gas, solar and wind-energy. Analysis of the relationship between disaster risk reduction and globalization to ensure that trade is not interrupted during natural disasters is also critical.

10. Changing values, attitudes and behaviour are a key part of a disaster reduction strategy. Awareness-raising programmes at all levels (pre-school, primary, secondary and tertiary), as well as gender-sensitive programme-targeted training and awareness-raising campaigns on environmental management and risk management, are considered essential. Media and other information and communication technologies, including new forms of such technologies, can play a major part in changing values and combating gender stereotypes and biases and in disseminating best practices and positive experience in disaster contexts.

11. The participation and involvement of local communities and civil society in general and women's groups in particular are considered central for addressing the issue of natural disasters mitigation. Women's active role in society before, during and after natural disasters, the knowledge of natural resources management among women's groups and networks, and their involvement and that of other community-based organizations in the decision-making process was stressed by many participants as a necessity to ensure sustainability. Gender equality in disaster reduction requires the empowerment of women so that they can play a greater role in leadership and management. The need for women to be empowered as decision-makers in order to participate fully to the formulation and implementation of disaster mitigation policies was brought to the fore. Some suggested that shifting decision-making on environmental issues to the local levels can give women greater opportunities for participation.

12. Investing in women as a strategy for environmental risk management is considered to be

crucial. Managing environmental risk is part of the development process, with the ultimate goal being to create a participatory framework in which responsibilities between actors are balanced and all groups of the community, including older men and women, are involved.

13. The need for political will to change cultural values and overturn the current focus on short-term interests and nurture a shift towards long-term planning was stressed. Participants also highlighted the importance of developing codes of conduct for all parties engaged in public-private partnerships in order to increase the social responsibility of private companies, curb damaging practices and foster gender equality and sustainable development.

14. Adopting an integrated approach that links gender equality, disaster reduction and sustainable development is considered to be essential. Thus, participants stressed the need to listen to women in order to find means to address serious problems in a holistic way and to sensitize men to the importance of gender equality and women's empowerment. Furthermore, the importance of implementing existing international conventions, including on biological diversity and climate change, in a gender-sensitive manner, was accentuated. Participants underscored the importance of including a gender perspective in all international processes, especially in the preparations, work and outcome of the forthcoming World Summit on Sustainable Development, which provides an opportunity to create conditions for sustainable development and the mitigation of disasters, as well as in the review of the implementation of the Yokohama Strategy for a Safer World.

Annex III

Statements by members of the Commission on the report of the Working Group on Communications on the Status of Women

1. At its 15th (closed) meeting, on 25 March, during the course of its deliberations on the report of the Working Group on Communications on the Status of Women, the Commission, by a vote of 25 to 10, with 1 abstention, upheld a ruling by the Chairperson regarding action to be taken.

2. Statements made by some members of the Commission are therefore reproduced below, at the request of those delegations.

Statement in explanation of vote by Ambassador Zhang Yishan of the Chinese delegation regarding the motion by Malaysia

I deeply regret the vote that has just taken place. With the expenditure of a little more effort and negotiation, we could have obtained a better result than a vote. The Chinese delegation supports the motion put forward by the representative of Malaysia and harbours serious reservations concerning the Chairman's package proposal.

The Chinese delegation has carefully read the report of the Working Group on Communications to the Commission on the Status of Women at its forty-sixth session. In our view, this report does not objectively reflect the cooperative attitude of and detailed responses to communications provided by the Government of the country concerned; moreover, it summarizes random occurrences as general trends. This approach is bound to have a negative influence on the work of this Commission. We hope that this problem can be resolved in the course of the Commission's future work.

During the forty-sixth session of the Commission on the Status of Women, the Chinese delegation has actively and conscientiously participated in the consideration of the report and has made specific proposals for its amendment. It is regrettable that these suggestions have not been accepted.

The vote I just cast is meant to imply three things:

1. Support for the proposal by the representative of Malaysia;

2. Disapproval of the Chairman's package proposal;

3. Opposition to the report of the Working Group on Communications.

I should like to request that my statement be included in the report of the Commission on the Status of Women.

Statement of Cuba

We would like to thank you, first of all, for your efforts to have the Commission on the Status of Women deal satisfactorily with the problem before it.

We nevertheless voted in favour of the proposal of Malaysia on the understanding that it would reinforce the right of the Commission to comment on the report of the Working Group on Communications.

On this occasion, the Commission did not consider the report in full but only as far as paragraph 4. The members of the Commission were thus unable to exercise their right to make a proper examination.

In the past year, as in earlier years, only after studying and considering the report of the Working Group on Communications thoroughly did the Commission include it in its own report for submission to the Economic and Social Council for its approval. My delegation would have liked to have seen the same procedure followed.

We would also like to point out that a significant number of delegations wished to complete consideration of the report, while others did not. Unfortunately, the approach taken was to allow those delegations with certain problems to express their observations and opinions.

We regret that consensus could not be reached on such a sensitive issue. We hope that in the coming year the Commission will be able to consider the report in full and adopt its decisions in its customary manner.

Statement of Indonesia

My delegation takes the floor in order to offer an explanation of its vote on the position on communications to the Economic and Social Council.

Indonesia has decided to vote yes, as its is our view that the proposal to thoroughly consider the report of the Working Group would conform to the guidelines established for the work of the Commission on this important matter before us.

It is our hope that in the future we will have the proper and appropriate procedure, so that the Commission will be in a position to adopt a consensus decision on this important question that facilitates the channel of communications.

Statement of the Islamic Republic of Iran

The delegation of the Islamic Republic of Iran voted in favour of the appeal made by the delegation of Malaysia containing the reservation and objection of Malaysia to the proposal of the Chair on the

report of the Working Group on Communications. This affirmative vote is due to the following:

1. The Commission on the Status of Women at its current session (forty-sixth) was unable to discuss the bulk of the report of the Working Group and the discussions and negotiations left unfinished before reaching any consensus on the whole text. Under these circumstances, any reference by the Commission to the report of the Working Group as "revised" does not correspond to reality.

2. No communication from the 1503 procedure should be considered as a basis for the conclusions supposed to be elaborated by the Working Group. The current practice of the sharing of information and communications between the Commission on the Status of Women and the 1503 procedure is not expected under the present resolutions of the Economic and Social Council.

3. According to the provisions of the existing resolutions, including Council resolution 1983/27, the Working Group is mandated with the task of "indicating the categories in which communications are most frequently submitted to the Commission". Hence there is no legal basis, in our view, for the Working Group to "express its concern" or to "note" the violations of human rights based on the communications forwarded to the Commission on the Status of Women, as the information received corresponds only to the allegations accompanied by replies from Governments.

4. According to Council resolution 1983/27, the Working Group is mandated with the task of bringing to the attention of the Commission on the Status of Women those communications "which appear to reveal a consistent pattern of reliably attested injustice and discriminatory practices against women" in the form of "categories of communications". There are instances in the report of the Working Group where the conclusion is drawn solely on the basis of just one communication on an isolated case in one country to which the concerned Government replied in detail. These kinds of communications clearly do not constitute any "trend" or "pattern" as stipulated in the pertinent resolutions, including resolution 1983/27.

5. The inclusion of the report of the Working Group in the report of the Commission on the Status of Women to the Economic and Social Council is neither obligatory nor expected, as the Working Group on Communications is a subsidiary body of the Commission on the Status of Women and its reports are addressed to it. It is only the Commission on the Status of Women that, on the basis of the report of the Working Group, may decide to make recommendations to its parent body, the Economic and Social Council. The practice of automatic transmission of the report of the Working Group to the Council is a wrong innovation.

The delegation of the Islamic Republic of Iran, while extending its sincere appreciation to the Chairperson, Ambassador Othman Jerandi of Tunisia, for his able leadership, hard work and the dedication, hopes that the Commission on the Status of Women would be able, at its forty-

seventh session to reach consensus on the very important report of the Working Group so that the Council can take an appropriate action on the trends of communications on the rights of women within its mandate.

Statement of disassociation submitted by Malaysia

My delegation would like to request the statement we are about to make be officially recorded and submitted as part of the report of the Commission to the Economic and Social Council.

My delegation disassociates itself from the decision of the Commission to reproduce the text of the report of the Working Group on Communications and to make it part of the recommendations the Commission is to submit to the Economic and Social Council on what action to take, as provided in paragraph 5 of Council resolution 1983/27.

Before discussing the report of the Working Group itself, my delegation would like to state that the list of communications prepared by the secretariat and forwarded to the Commission is legally flawed. Seventeen out of the total number of 23 communications listed are inadmissible, and should not be considered by the Working Group. The seventeen communications are those transmitted to the secretariat of the Commission on the Status of Women by the secretariat of the Commission on Human Rights, and are communications received by the latter under the 1503 procedure.

As the Commission is well aware, since 2000, there have been lengthy discussions both in this Commission and in the Commission on Human Rights on the illegality of the transmission of 1503 communications to this Commission. This discussion has not concluded, and until such time it has, the Working Group of the Commission on the Status of Women should not be made privy, much less consider, the 1503 communications.

Regrettably, despite concerns raised by many delegations, those communications were submitted to the Working Group, which proceeded to consider them and subsequently made a finding.

As is clearly provided for in paragraphs 4 (a) and (b) of the Economic and Social Council resolution 1983/27, the function of the Working Group is to consider all communications and replies from Governments with a view to bringing to the attention of the Commission those communications which reveal a consistent pattern of reliably attested injustices and discriminatory practices against women and to prepare a report which will indicate the categories in which communications are most frequently submitted to the Commission.

Studying the report prepared by the Working Group, it becomes very clear that it has failed to fulfil its task, in the following areas:

i. It has not brought to the attention of the Commission communications which reveal a consistent pattern of injustices;

ii. It failed to consider the question of reliable attestation to any of the allegations, a concern raised by many delegations both during the open debate on the communications procedure of the Commission on the Status of Women as well as during the closed session to consider the communications; and

iii. The report failed to indicate any category in which communications are frequently received.

Having failed to discern any trend or pattern emerging from the list of communications received, the Working Group should, by right, indicate as much in their report. However, the current Working Group before the forty-sixth session of the Commission has taken it upon itself to extend its mandate and to "note" the violations of the rights of women in different regions around the world, regardless of the fact that the individual cases, when considered together as a whole, do not point to a consistent pattern of injustices. The Working Group had failed to fulfil any of the three criteria provided in operative paragraph 4 of Council resolution 1983/27.

My delegation is of the view that the report prepared by the Working Group, with all its shortcomings, should nonetheless be examined by the Commission, as provided in operative paragraph 5 of Council resolution 1983/27, with a view to making recommendations to the Council, which would then decide what action may appropriately be taken on the emerging patterns of communications.

Bearing in mind that the Working Group has failed to point to an emerging pattern of communications, the Commission would, by logical sequence/conclusion, not be able to make any recommendations to the Economic and Social Council in this regard.

Having said this, my delegation feels that a general recommendation for human rights education to be carried out in sensitizing officials in "sensitive" areas of work is a good one, and could/should be made by the Commission to the Economic and Social Council. In this regard, paragraph 11 of the report of the Working Group could serve as a basis for such a recommendation.

Reservation entered by Pakistan

My delegation did not support the proposal to include the report of the Working Group on Communications in the report of the Commission on the Status of Women to the Economic and Social Council. We did so because we consider the proposal in violation of Council resolution 1983/27.

May I remind the Commission the report of the Working Group is to be examined by the Commission to formulate its recommendations to the Economic and Social Council. Paragraph 5 of Council resolution 1983/27 requires, and I quote, "the Commission on the Status of Women to examine the report of the Working Group and to avoid duplication of the work undertaken by other organs of the Economic and Social

Council, the Commission being in this respect empowered only to make recommendations to the Council, which shall then decide what action may appropriately be taken on the emerging trends and pattern of communications". The report of the Working Group was never fully examined by the Commission. The Commission did not complete even one reading of the report. As the distinguished delegates who attended the forty-fifth session of the Commission on the Status of Women last year will kindly recall, the Commission had not only examined the report of its Working Group but had also made substantial amendments and only then adopted it and included it in its report to the Council. The report however, did not elicit any recommendation. This year the Commission did not have the opportunity to examine the report of the Working Group.

Paragraphs 4 (a) and (b) of Council resolution 1983/27 oblige the Working Group to bring to the attention of the Commission on the Status of Women communications which appear to reveal a consistent pattern of reliably attested discriminatory practices and to prepare a report indicating categories in which communications are most frequently submitted. The report of the Working Group did neither of these. It did not identify communications revealing consistent patterns of discriminatory practices. We also did not find any category indicated in which communications are most frequently submitted. Reliable attestation of discriminatory practices too had not been done.

In view of these factors we do not consider it appropriate to include the report of the Working Group in the report of the Commission to the Economic and Social Council. The resolution of the Economic and Social Council governing the functions and interaction between the Council and the Commission and between the Commission and its Working Group do not require reproduction of the report of the Working Group in the Commission's report to the Council.

To conclude, ours is a position of principle. We have always upheld the supremacy of rules and regulations and procedures agreed by the Member States. We cannot be a party to transgression of mandate and violation of rules. We have therefore voted in favour of the point of order made by Malaysia and against the proposal of including the report of the Working Group in the report of the Commission to the Economic and Social Council.

Statement of the Republic of Korea

My delegation would like to add its voice to those of the other delegations that have expressed full support for the manner in which you have brought this very difficult issue to a closure. Given the sensitivities involved, given the differing views of the delegations, and given all the time we have spent considering the matter, your ruling, though perhaps not to the satisfaction of all delegations, was, I believe, the wisest way to bring this matter to closure. Many delegations have spoken about the limited time we had to consider the report of the Working Group. But we

spent much more than the time initially allocated to the consideration of the report, two whole sessions and many more hours, not to mention the many hours you, Mr. Chairman, spent in bilateral consultations with the interested delegations. We must remember that time is limited. On no issue do we have an indefinite amount of time. The key is to make effective use of the time given to us. On this point, if I may try to end things on a hopeful note, may I remind delegations that we now have a decision for an early appointment of the membership of the Working Group, so that the Group will have more time to work and be able to submit its report to the Commission well in advance of its consideration, giving delegations much more time to consider the report before coming to the closed meeting for its consideration. Hopefully, the new method will enhance effectiveness of the Working Group and our consideration of its report.

Statement of the Sudan

First of all let me commend your efforts to bring about a consensus on this issue. Allow me also to make it absolutely clear that we support what was said by the delegation of Malaysia because our understanding was not to challenge the ruling of the Chair, but to allow more time to consider the issues, as Malaysia has proposed. My delegation also subscribes to what was stated by the delegations of the Islamic Republic of Iran, the United Republic of Tanzania and Cuba.

My delegation regrets that it finds itself in a situation where the Commission is obliged to challenge the ruling of the Chair, a matter that does not usually take place in the Commission on the Status of Women, which usually concludes its business in a very positive manner.

The main problem we are faced with today and which led to this sad situation is caused by:

1. The inability of the Commission to complete the revision of the report of the Working Group on Communications, as stipulated in relevant mandates and as was the practice in previous sessions.

2. The lack of time, which was exhausted in procedural discussion as well as on substantive matters.

It is the view of my delegation that the Commission, under your able leadership succeeded in adopting two agreed conclusions on the two thematic issues of the current session, in addition to adopting many substantive resolutions, as well as procedural ones. We are confirming this fact because we believe that the report of the Working Group on Communications, should be given enough time that is necessary for each and every Member State to be satisfied with it before its final adoption. In this connection, the Commission would have been in a better situation now if a decision on this report is put off until all outstanding issues are resolved. The Commission has done so in the past, and in the latest session it has put off discussion on its working methods.

Whatever action the Commission has taken now, my delegation, as a matter of principle, cannot tolerate the notion that the consensus of a given Member State will not be taken on board due to the shortage of time while the opportunity is available for that. Furtnermore, my delegation will not allow this situation to be repeated in future sessions, which will undoubtedly constitute a serious obstacle to the work of this important Commission.

We would also pose this question after today's vote: How will the Commission deal with this matter at its next session. We need to be absolutely clear on this and we hope that delegations here will have an answer.

Annex IV

Attendance

Members*

Argentina	Arnoldo M. Listre, Laura Isabel Velazquez, Alberto Pedro D'Alotto, Alejandra Martha Ayuso
Azerbaijan	Yashar Aliyev, Mominat Omarova, Lala Ibrahimovat
Belgium	Jean De Ruyt, Stéphane De Loecker, Michel Goffin, Birgit Stevens
Benin	Joël W. Adechi, Nicole J. Elisha
Botswana	Marty I. Legwaila, Lucy S. Maribe, Pholile E. Legwaila, Stella Dabutha, Keboitse Machangana, Phemelo Maiketso, Monica Mphusu, Emolemo Morake
Brazil	Maria Luiza Ribeiro Viotti, Fernando Estellita Lins de Salvo Coimbra, Adriana Rodrigues Martins
Burkina Faso	Guigma Marie Gisèle, Michel Kafando, Ouedraogo Fati, Séraphine Toé
Burundi	Gaudence Rwamaheke, Françoise Magunira, Solange Habonimana, Ancilla Ndahigeze
Chile	Juan Gabriel Valdés, Cristián Maquieira, Loreto Leyton
China	Wang Yingfan, Xie Bohua, Zou Xiaoqiao, Ren Yisheng, Ip Peng Kin, Isabel Maria Ho, Huang Shu, Zhang Caixia, Zhang Lei
Croatia	Ivan Šimonović, Mirjana Mladineo, Dubravka Šimonović, Katarina Ivanković-Knežević
Cuba	Magalys Arocha Domínguez, Orlando Requeijo Gual, Margarita Valle Camino, Rita María Pereira Ramírez, Ana Teresita González Fraga, Luis Amorós Núñez, Ana Milagros Martínez Rielo
Democratic People's Republic of Korea	Pak Gil Yon, Ri Si Hong, Hong Je Ryong, Mun Jong Chol
Denmark	Ellen Margrethe Løj, Henrik Bramsen Hahn, Ulla Lehmann Nielsen, Trine Lund Pedersen, Birgit Madsen, Pernille Bischoff, Brigitte Husmark, Kira Appel

* Nicaragua was not represented at the session.

Dominican Republic	Ramona Rojas Paredes, Sergia Garvan, María de Jesús Díaz, Mariela Sánchez
Egypt	Mai Khalil, Reeham Khalil, Safaa Albaz
Gabon	Régina Aworet Oberdeno
Germany	Hanns Heinrich Schumacher, Marion Thielenhaus, Bernhard Graf von Waldersee, Margarethe Wenzel-Weckmann, Bettina Cadenbach, Manuel Müller, Gabriele Wölk, Inge Bönninghausen, Birgit Dederichs-Bain
Guatemala	Vilma Lyli Caravantes Tobias, Gert Rosenthal, José Alberto Briz Gutièrrez, Connie Taracena Secaira, Luisa Bonilla Mérida
Guinea	Mariama Sylla Diaby, Marie Touré, Madina Bah, Idiatou Camara, N'Diaye Djénabou Fofana, Aminatou Barry Camara, Fatoumata Téné Nabé, Georges Kantabadouno, Saïdou Diallo
Indonesia	Mr. Makmur Widodo, Mochamad Slamet Hidayat, Andarus Daharim, Titiek Suyono, Bali Moniaga, Sri Danti, Dicky Komar, Penny D. Herasati
Iran (Islamic Republic of)	Mohammad Hassan Fadaifard, Paymaneh Hasteh, Mostafa Alaei, Farideh Hassani
Italy	Sergio Vento, Pier Benedetto Francese, Brunella Borzi, Clara Collarile, Michele Palma, Marco De Giorgi, Stefano LaPorta, Marina Piazza, Pia Locatelli, Tosca Barucco, Bianca Maria Pomeranzi, Marina Porro, Marisa Faga'
Japan	Yoriko Meguro, Kazuhisa Sato, Eiji Yamamoto, Atsuko Suzuki, Chihiro Murata, Hiroyuki Karasawa, Naomi Ochi, Yoko Tsukamoto, Yusuke Kuzuhara, Teruyo Shimasaki, Yuki Sakai, Naoko Hashimoto, Yoko Suzuki, Harumi Okawa
Kyrgyzstan	Kamil Bayalinov, Anara Nasirova, Zamira Tohtohodjaeva
Lithuania	Rimantas Kairelis, Audra Plepytė
Malawi	Isaac C. Lamba, Mary Shawa, Christobel Chakwana, Jane Asani-Ndelemani
Malaysia	Hasmy Agam, Datin Faizah Mohd Tahir, Zuraidah Amiruddin, Astanah Banu Abdul Aziz
Mexico	Roberta Lajous, Flor de Lis Vásquez Muñoz, Jessica Baños Poo, Aida Carreño Ramos, Claudia Velasco
Mongolia	

Netherlands	Flora van Houwelingen, Marisia Pechaczek, Annelie Joki-Hubach, Kitty van der Heijden, Paul Peters, Alexandra P. Valkenburg, Vivienne Daflaar, Yadira Schoneberg-Hasselmeyer, Jeannette Juliet-Pablo
Nicaragua	
Pakistan	Shamshad Ahmad, Faqir Hussain, Masood Khalid, Ishtiaq H. Andrabi
Peru	Violeta Bermúdez Valdivia, Oswaldo de Rivero, Marco Balarezo, Alfredo Chuquihuara, Carmen Rosa Arias, Marcela Huaita
Republic of Korea	Han Myung-sook, Suh Myung-son, Jo Seung-eun, Yang Sang-hyun, Kang Kyung-wha, Kang Sun-hye, Kim Jin-sook, Kim Hye-seon, Shin Hyun-ok, Lee Sai-yul, Lee Houn-won, Chung Eui-hae, Lee Yun-sook, Sohn Hee-jung, Kim Bang-rim, Kim Hwa-joong, Park Sook-ja, Jang Ha-jin, Kim Young-hye, Eun Bang-hee, Han Ji-hyun, Cho Young-sook, Lee Hyeo-kyeong, Kim Hye-youn, Kim Hyun-min
Russian Federation	V. A. Iavarev, V. I. Galitzky, I. D. Evdokimov, A. A. Rogov, T. I. Golovnia, G. S. Khvan
Senegal	Awa Gueye Kebe, Papa Louis Fall, Cheikh Niang, Mankeur Ndiaye, Maty Diaw, Marième Diop, Aminata Faye, Marième Ndiaye, Ndèye Fatma Niang, Leysa Faye
South Africa	Tilana Grobbelaar, Susan Nkomo, Jane Masango, Annette Hugo, Maria Moate, N. Nojozi
Sudan	Omer Bashir Manis, Limia Abdelgafar KhalFalla, Tarig Ali Bakhit
Tunisia	Othman Jerandi, Zohra Ben Romdhane, Ali Cherif
Turkey	Leyla Coşkun Çinar, Yakin Ertürk, Nuray Karanci, Hakan Tekin, Serap Ercan
United Arab Emirates	Mohammed Al-Otaiba
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	Elizabeth Chennells, Margaret Batty, Ann Wilsdon, Mark Pethick, Christine Crawley, Janet Veitch, Sue Blackwell, Mark Runacres, Matthew Johnson, Joe Ritchie, Gill Porter, Kate Tomalin-Reeves
United Republic of Tanzania	Asha-Rose Migiro, D. N. Mwakawago, Anne S. Makinda, Halima O. Kimbau, Mary I. Mushi, Edine E. Mangesho, Christine Kapalata, Rahma A. Khamis, Mary A. Singano, Joyce C. Kafanabo, Imani D. Aboud, Hafsa Myovela, Maria H. Mashingo, Anne Mwasha

United States of America	Ellen Sauerbrey, Sichan Siv, Katherine M. Blakeslee, John Davison, Katherine Gorove, Thomas A. Johnson, Peggy Kerry, Sharon Kotok, April Palmerlee, Avraham Rabby, Claudia Serwer, Laurie Shestack, Kate O'Beirne, Winsome A. Packer, Nancy Mitchell Pfotenhauer

States Members of the United Nations represented by observers

Algeria, Andorra, Angola, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Bahamas, Bangladesh, Belarus, Bolivia, Cameroon, Canada, Cape Verde, Costa Rica, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ecuador, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, France, Georgia, Ghana, Greece, Guyana, Haiti, Iceland, India, Iraq, Ireland, Israel, Jamaica, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Lesotho, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Mali, Mauritius, Morocco, Mozambique, Namibia, New Zealand, Nigeria, Norway, Panama, Paraguay, Philippines, Portugal, Qatar, Romania, Rwanda, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saudi Arabia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Suriname, Swaziland, Sweden, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Thailand, Uganda, Ukraine, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Venezuela, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Non-member States represented by observers

Holy See, Switzerland.

Entity maintaining a permanent observer mission to the United Nations

Palestine.

United Nations

Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, Joint United Nations Programme on Human Immunodeficiency Virus/Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome (UNAIDS), Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, United Nations Development Fund for Women, United Nations Population Fund.

Specialized agencies and related organizations

International Labour Organization, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, World Health Organization, World Bank, International Monetary Fund, International Fund for Agricultural Development, United Nations Industrial Development Organization.

Intergovernmental organizations represented by observers

Commonwealth Secretariat, European Community, International Organization for Migration, Organization of African Unity.

Other entities having received a standing invitation to participate as observers in the sessions and the work of the General Assembly

International Committee of the Red Cross.

Non-governmental organizations

A large number of non-governmental organizations that either are in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council or had been accredited to the Fourth World Conference on Women also attended the session.

Annex V

List of documents before the Commission at its forty-sixth session

Document symbol	*Agenda item*	*Title or description*
E/CN.6/2002/1	2	Provisional agenda
E/CN.6/2002/2	3 (a)	Report of the Secretary-General on measures taken and progress achieved in the follow-up to and implementation of the Fourth World Conference on Women and the special session of the General Assembly entitled "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century", especially in mainstreaming a gender perspective in entities of the United Nations system
E/CN.6/2002/3	3 (a)	Report of the Secretary-General on the situation of and assistance to Palestinian women
E/CN.6/2002/4	3	Report of the Secretary-General on release of women and children taken hostage, including those subsequently imprisoned, in armed conflicts
E/CN.6/2002/5	3 (a)	Report of the Secretary-General on discrimination against women and girls in Afghanistan
E/CN.4/2002/82- E/CN.6/2002/6	3 (a)	Report of the Secretary-General on the joint work plan of the Office of the Special Adviser on Gender Issues and Advancement of Women, the Division for the Advancement of Women and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights
E/CN.6/2002/7	3 (a)	Report of the Secretary-General on the improvement of the status of women in the United Nations system
E/CN.4/2002/136- E/CN.6/2002/8	3 (a)	Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the United Nations Development Fund for Women on the activities of the Fund to eliminate violence against women
E/CN.6/2002/9	3 (c)	Report of the Secretary-General on thematic issues before the Commission on the Status of Women
E/CN.6/2002/10	2	Letter dated 8 October 2001 from the President of the Economic and Social Council to the Chairperson of the Commission on the Status of Women
E/CN.6/2002/11	5	Note by the Secretariat on follow-up to Economic and Social Council resolutions and decisions
E/CN.6/2002/12	4	Report of the Secretary-General assessing the implications of the reforms of mechanisms in the human rights area (1503 procedure) for communications concerning the status of women

Document symbol	Agenda item	Title or description
E/CN.6/2002/CRP.1	3 (a)	Note by the Secretary-General on the results of the twenty-sixth session of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women
E/CN.6/2002/CRP.2	3 (a)	Note by the Secretary-General on proposed revisions to the medium-term plan for the period 2002-2005
E/CN.6/2002/CRP.3	5	Note by the Secretariat on the contribution of human resources development, including in the areas of health and education, to the process of development
E/CN.6/2002/CRP.4	3 (c) (i)	Summary submitted by the moderator of the panel discussion on eradicating poverty, including through the empowerment of women throughout their life cycle in a globalizing world (Fernando Estellita Lins de Salvo)
E/CN.6/2002/CRP.5	3 (c) (ii)	Summary submitted by the moderator of the panel discussion on environmental management and mitigation of natural disasters: a gender perspective (Kyung-wha Kang)
E/CN.6/2002/CRP.6	4	Report of the Working Group on Communications on the Status of Women
E/CN.6/2002/L.1	3	Draft resolution entitled "Release of women and children taken hostage, including those subsequently imprisoned, in armed conflicts", submitted by Azerbaijan, Georgia, Tajikistan, Turkey and Uzbekistan
E/CN.6/2002/L.1/Rev.1	3	Revised draft resolution submitted by Armenia, Azerbaijan, Burundi, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Tajikistan, Turkey and Uzbekistan
E/CN.6/2002/L.2	3 (a)	Draft resolution entitled "The situation of and assistance to Palestinian women", submitted by Venezuela on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China
E/CN.6/2002/L.3	3	Draft resolution entitled "Women, the girl child and human immunodeficiency virus/acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (HIV/AIDS)", submitted by Angola, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia and South Africa
E/CN.6/2002/L.3/Rev.1	3	Revised draft resolution submitted by Angola, Botswana, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Lesotho, Malawi, Mauritius, Mozambique, Namibia, South Africa, Swaziland, the United Republic of Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe
E/CN.6/2002/L.4	3	Draft resolution entitled "Situation of women and girls in Afghanistan", submitted by the United States of America
E/CN.6/2002/L.4/Rev.1	3	Revised draft resolution
E/CN.6/2002/L.4/Rev.2	3	Revised draft resolution

Document symbol	*Agenda item*	*Title or description*
E/CN.6/2002/L.5	3 (a)	Draft resolution entitled "Mainstreaming a gender perspective into all policies and programmes in the United Nations system", submitted by Australia, Canada, Chile, Croatia, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Guyana, Italy, Liechtenstein, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nigeria, Norway, Portugal, Senegal, Sweden, Turkey and United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Irelands
E/CN.6/2002/L.6	2	Draft decision entitled "Election of the Bureau of the Commission on the Status of Women", submitted by the Chairman of the Commission on the basis of informal consultations
E/CN.6/2002/L.7	7	Draft report of the Commission on its forty-seventh session
E/CN.6/2002/L.8	2	Draft decision entitled "Further organizational matters of the Commission on the Status of Women", submitted by the Vice-Chairperson of the Commission on the basis of informal consultations
E/CN.6/2002/L.9	6	Provisional agenda for the forty-seventh session of the Commission
E/CN.6/2002/S.W. Communications List No. 36	4	Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the confidential list of communications concerning the status of women
E/CN.6/2002/NGO/1	3 (c)	Statement submitted by Soroptimist International, a non-governmental organization in general consultative status with the Economic and Social Council
E/CN.6/2002/NGO/2	3 (c) (i)	Statement submitted by HelpAge International, International Alliance of Women, International Council of Women, International Federation of Business and Professional Women, and Soroptimist International, non-governmental organizations in general consultative status with the Economic and Social Council; Associated Country Women of the World, Centre for Women, the Earth, the Divine, European Women's Lobby, International Federation of University Women, Italian Centre of Solidarity, National Council of German Women's Organizations, Pax Romana, Salvation Army, School Sisters of Notre Dame, Socialist International Women, and Women's International Zionist Organization, non-governmental organizations in special consultative status with the Economic and Social Council; and European Union of Women and International Association for Counselling, non-governmental organizations on the Roster
E/CN.6/2002/NGO/3	3 (c) (ii)	Statement submitted by HelpAge International, International Alliance of Women, International Council of Women, International Federation of Business and Professional Women, and Soroptimist International, non-governmental organizations in general consultative status with the Economic and Social Council; Associated Country Women of the World, Centre for Women, the Earth, the Divine, European Women's Lobby, International Federation of University Women, Italian Centre of Solidarity, National Council of German Women's Organizations, Pax

Document symbol	*Agenda item*	*Title or description*
		Romana, Salvation Army, School Sisters of Notre Dame, Socialist International Women and Women's International Zionist Organization, non-governmental organizations in special consultative status with the Economic and Social Council; and European Union of Women and International Association for Counselling, non-governmental organizations on the Roster
E/CN.6/2002/NGO/4	3 (c) (i)	Statement submitted by the Women's National Commission, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status with the Economic and Social Council
E/CN.6/2002/NGO/5	3 (c)	Statement submitted by the World Veterans Federation, a non-governmental organization in general consultative status with the Economic and Social Council
E/CN.6/2002/NGO/6	3 (c)	Statement submitted by Rotary International, a non-governmental organization in general consultative status with the Economic and Social Council
E/CN.6/2002/NGO/7	3 (c)	Statement submitted by Zonta International, a non-governmental organization in general consultative status with the Economic and Social Council
E/CN.6/2002/NGO/8	3 (c) (i)	Statement submitted by Legião da Boa Vontade, a non-governmental organization in general consultative status with the Economic and Social Council
E/CN.6/2002/NGO/9	3 (c) (i)	Statement submitted by International Alliance of Women, International Council of Women, International Federation of Business and Professional Women, International Federation of Settlements and Neighbourhood Centres, Soroptimist International, World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts and Zonta International, non-governmental organizations in general consultative status with the Economic and Social Council; All India Women's Conference, Associated Country Women of the World, Baha'i International Community, International Federation of University Women, International Federation of Women in Legal Careers, International Federation of Women Lawyers, Pan-Pacific and South-East Asia Women's Association, United States Committee for UNIFEM and World Young Women's Christian Association, non-governmental organizations in special consultative status with the Economic and Social Council; and Altrusa International, Armenian International Women's Association, and United Nations Association of the United States of America, non-governmental organizations on the Roster
E/CN.6/2002/NGO/10	3 (c) (i)	Statement submitted by International Federation of Business and Professional Women, a non-governmental organization in general consultative status with the Economic and Social Council; and Coalition against Trafficking in Women, Congregation of Our Lady of Charity of the Good Shepherd, Miramed Institute, Mouvement pour

Document symbol	*Agenda item*	*Title or description*
		l'abolition de la prostitution et de la pornographie et de toutes formes de violences sexuelles et discriminations sexistes and World Federation for Mental Health , non-governmental organizations in special consultative status with the Economic and Social Council
E/CN.6/2002/NGO/11	3 (c) (i)	Statement submitted by the Fédération européenne des femmes actives au foyer, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status with the Economic and Social Council
E/CN.6/2002/NGO/12	3 (c) (i)	Statement submitted by Mother's Union, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status with the Economic and Social Council
E/CN.6/2002/NGO/13	3 (c) (ii)	Statement submitted by Human Rights Advocates International, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status with the Economic and Social Council

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E/CN.6/2002/13